



EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
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Rod, poll or perch

The remarkable thing about last week's crop of surveys and polls was not so much what they said, as the consistency with which they said it.

It usually requires a leap of faith from the lay public—and sometimes from the pollsters themselves—to accept that a sample of less than a thousand people can represent the views of anyone other than themselves, even when the sample consists of young-old, rich-poor, north-south, man-woman. And, without belief, why take account of what they say? Well, one good reason for listening now and again to the voice of the polls is the remarkable frequency with which they come to the same answer, no matter how different the sample, the method, the survey firm, or even the year.

Last week McCann-Erickson published a survey (page 5) of the attitudes and habits of young people between the ages of 16 and 25 which surprised or reassured a lot of people by demonstrating that whatever their political views (Labour as teenagers, Conservative by the time they get the vote) youth in pretty consistent and conservative, hard-working, neat and kind-hearted, though inclined to a back-leash leech on women's piety, unemployment and hanging. They like listening to music, buying sweets, drinks, clothes and records. They are very worried about the environment and jobs.

More lawyers' fees

It begins to look as if the 1976 Education Act will have to be tested in the courts before very long. Bexley has challenged Mr Williams' interpretation of his powers under the Act (page 1) and placed her in a difficult position. The DES is having been savaged by lawyers in the recent past, must have hoped to rely on the large element of bluff in the 1976 Act. To risk another rebuff of the Secretary of State against a Tory local authority puts forward a scheme which is unacceptable to a Labour Secretary of State would simply confirm those who said all along that the Act would be an ineffective instrument against those authorities which were determined to temporize.

Two cheers

The report of the Vital Skills Task Group (page 10) is a pallid affair, which shows how difficult it is to achieve the aims set out in the individual employers' document *Training for Vital Skills*. The essence of the earlier proposals was that the case of skills training be changed collectively if it could not be done simply every time there was a recession.

heavy reading of comics with *Benjo* and *Daddy* in the lead. None of this came as any surprise to experienced reorganizers such as that doyen of the pollsters, Mr Mink Abrams, who practically loved the teenager with his report on the *Teenage Consumer* in 1959. It was that report which first established this egg group as big spenders—on records, sweets, soft and alcoholic drinks—on young-old, rich-poor, north-south, man-woman. And, without belief, why take account of what they say? Well, one good reason for listening now and again to the voice of the polls is the remarkable frequency with which they come to the same answer, no matter how different the sample, the method, the survey firm, or even the year.

Whatever the implications of all that for educational policy, a poll conducted by Markar and Opinion Research International for the *Sunday Times* (to coincide with the Labour Party conference) may be of more immediate import. Among other questions on government policy it found a majority of 71 per cent of all voters in favour of keeping grammar schools, 57 per cent among Labour voters, 58 per cent were for grammar schools and only 28 per cent against. What should be noted about this is that the percentage for grammar schools is almost precisely the same as the 72 per cent the *TES* found in two successive polls of teachers published in 1974 and again last month.

Apart from the interesting observations that teacher opinion seems exactly to reflect that of the population as a whole, such a demonstration that three-quarters of the population are reluctant to see grammar schools disappear must encourage the hard-liners among the Tories. It is a commentary on Mrs Williams' idea of a Great Debate on education that it was there she entirely refuses to hear what people are saying.

and parents showed that this is not what local people want. There are suggestions that behind the authority's decision to wish to have a scheme which could easily be scrapped if a change of government enabled them to revert to grammar schools. But motives are hard to prove and, in any case, why should we not look beyond the immediate present when making long-term plans for secondary education? Birmingham and Tameside, two of the towns in Mrs Williams' list, are thinking about similar lines to Bexley. It could well be that other recalcitrant local authorities will seize upon this particular method of sending off the DES. The objection to "muscular" school arrangements has a lot of force, especially when falling rolls increase potential choice and make the school market more volatile. But the terms of the 1976 Education Act do not suggest that it will be easy for Mrs Williams to substitute her judgment for that of the Secretary of State. She will still have to use Section 68 of the 1944 Act to issue a direction if she wants to overrule an authority's decision. It could show that the authority's scheme is unworkable when it comes to the actual implementation of the scheme, but that is not the point.

It now seems that the task group have had to go for a much more modest plan. They want, in effect, to be giving the industrial training boards and individual employers one more chance. Their four-stage scheme will enable work-based training provision to be identified and suggest ways in which it can be filled. How that extra training places will be financed is not clear at this stage, but it sounds as if what they now propose is uncommonly like the employer-financed scheme that the *TES* is finding second best in the southern counties.

J. D. STEWART on what another local government reshuffle will mean

A major operation

In 1972 when the new Local Government Act was passed, it was assumed by many that the issue of local government reorganization was closed. The issue could now be dealt with—as it has always been dealt with—in the education service by joint arrangements or joint funding. The paper concludes, rather than to draw a dividing line between "regional" and "district" functions within the education service. Only benefits would come from the wider scope of these new authorities. The services would mean that education would no longer have the apparent vulnerability of spending a high proportion of the authorities' budgets.

However, far from leading to acceptance, criticism of local government reorganization has grown. Judging by the range and extent of its present critics in all parties, the independent observer must be puzzled as to how such a reorganization could have been carried through the House of Commons—by only one man, the Minister responsible—apparently in favour of it.

So far many of the critics have hesitated to propose yet another reorganization. The reasons for this hesitation were the very obvious costs of reorganization itself—least of all disturbance and distraction from the main purposes of local government and the services for which it is responsible. Those costs would be incurred for uncertain gains. For although some would agree in condemning the existing structure, there would not be the same unanimity on what should replace that structure.

But now reorganization is once again on the political agenda. The 1974 reorganization has failed in its most limited aim. It has not removed the issue of local government reorganization—with all the consequences for the management of the education service—for even a few years.

Peter Shore in his speech to the Labour Party's Local Government Conference earlier this year indicated a further commitment to a further reorganization. At its meeting on June 28, 1977, the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party reaffirmed the commitment contained in their previous statement on Labour's programme to establish "elected regional authorities as part of a reformed local government structure based on multi-purpose district authorities. The Labour Party has now issued a consultation document *Government Reform* setting out proposals for a further major reorganization in the mid-1980s and also proposals for more immediate changes. This document is a discussion document, as such, however, it places local government reorganization firmly on the political agenda. It indicates the growing commitment within the Labour Party to further reorganization. The proposals contained in the paper are for about 12 elected regional authorities and about 200 district authorities in England. (Alternative proposals are set out in the regional boundaries.) These proposals imply an average population of 4,000,000 for the regional authorities and 250,000 for the district authorities, although with considerable variations above and below these figures.

The district councils would continue most of the present county and district services and might possibly undertake the management of the National Health Service. They appear to approach in concept the unitary authorities proposed by the Royal Commission.

to meet the problem of the special institution whose catchment area spreads widely beyond a local authority. This problem can be dealt with—as it has always been dealt with—in the education service by joint arrangements or joint funding. The paper concludes, rather than to draw a dividing line between "regional" and "district" functions within the education service. Only benefits would come from the wider scope of these new authorities. The services would mean that education would no longer have the apparent vulnerability of spending a high proportion of the authorities' budgets.

'The world of education is unlikely to see much merit in the creation of new institutional instability'

The main issue for education would be whether the new district councils would provide an adequate base for the education service. In the present metropolitan areas these new authorities might well be based on existing metropolitan districts outside the metropolitan areas the new authorities would be larger than many present counties. Many in the education service would regret the fragmentation of present counties and question whether an authority with an average size of 250,000 (with some authorities significantly smaller) was adequate in size. Whether this is a valid objection is open to challenge. There is little hard evidence to justify the belief that education would be maintained on a service which would be smaller than the present metropolitan districts. However, the education service does not ignore the new regional authorities. The relationship proposed between region and district differs significantly from the present relationship between county and district. For certain critical purposes of deep concern to education the region would in effect control the district. The new regional authorities, as well as exercising certain functions in their own right (police, fire, emergency services, certain transportation functions, sewerage and water supplies and possibly the provision of regional health authorities) would exercise certain controls over district councils. It is proposed that regional authorities should also allocate capital resources within the region for the development of local government services.

This proposal means that the relationship between region and district is in part a hierarchical relationship. It must mean the region equipping itself to appraise the educational building programmes of districts. It would require in effect no dualistic department at regional level. The consequences for both the Department of Education and Science and education authorities are very far-reaching. It is doubtful if the education service would survive.

Education would be the responsibility of the new district authorities. The proposals do not break down the role of education, but they do break down the structure of the education service. What was taught was to determine what was examined with a powerful drive to place the teachers in the hands of the state. As I understand it the Assessment of Performance Unit does not advocate that the assessment of performance should be in the hands of teachers and aim to assess the teaching. It is right, Jack Wrigley might say, hardly holds up. As for saying that what has

opened to the CRG could be to the APT, this possibility is discussed. Or is the case different. This day of the inspector has come, though it may be short. E. H. TAYLOR, Dept. of the Faculty of Education, University of Birmingham.

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Jobs: probationers frozen out

Probationary teachers looking for jobs in primary schools have had their worst fears confirmed by early replies from LEAs, particularly in the metropolitan districts. The number leaving fell by 25 per cent in one year.

December is in its first year of recruitment for schools where the rolls are falling. In Kirklees the cut-back is attributed to "non-resignations". The number leaving fell by 25 per cent in one year.

Herfordshire, one of the largest education authorities and one with a falling school population but rising numbers in its secondary schools, employed 102 primary probationary teachers last September. This year it only took on 37. Altogether the county engaged 363 new teachers this year against 557 a year ago.

Lincolnshire's intake of newly trained secondary teachers actually went up while the number for primary schools fell from 71 to 46. Somerset has cut its primary intake by half from 44 to 22.

This week the National Union of Teachers blamed Government policy for the situation. They may be right. The fact that the number of probationary teachers has fallen so sharply is a clear indication that the Government's policy of reducing the number of probationary teachers is having a significant effect. The fact that the number of probationary teachers has fallen so sharply is a clear indication that the Government's policy of reducing the number of probationary teachers is having a significant effect.

for the 20,000 unemployed teachers in England and Wales today. A spokesman said: "We very much regret the attempt by the Department of Education and Science to make teacher unemployment a fall-out of falling school rolls, which is demonstrably the effect of the Government's spending policies; 20,000 unemployed teachers is a terrible waste of trained resources."

Mr Bernard Wakefield, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters-Union of Women Teachers criticised authorities which were refusing to use the early retirement compensation scheme. Many more young teachers could be taken off the role and into the classrooms as an increase in cost if LEAs used the new scheme to pension-off "stressed 60 to 65-year-old teachers."

For too many LEAs were "shy" of the scheme because it was new, and because they did not realize it would cost the same, or actually save the authority money if it paid off teachers in this age bracket. Many of them were anxious to leave teaching but reluctant to protect their pensions.

And what in the end is the result? The fact that the number of probationary teachers has fallen so sharply is a clear indication that the Government's policy of reducing the number of probationary teachers is having a significant effect. The fact that the number of probationary teachers has fallen so sharply is a clear indication that the Government's policy of reducing the number of probationary teachers is having a significant effect.

Essex promise fails to get staffs to end sanctions

Essex chief education officer, to defuse teachers' sanctions by a promise of more primary school jobs next September has failed. Mr Peter Cotgrove, secretary of the county association of the National Union of Teachers, whose members are refusing to teach oversize classes, said yesterday that the union welcomed any improvement over poor staffing in Essex, but the proposal to employ 200 more teachers in a number of schools at the stage of being put to a full council meeting. We are not likely to call off sanctions until this is implemented.

ILEA moves to improve race relations

The Inner London Education Authority is planning major reforms to help immigrant children. They will mean setting up a new section taking on six more administrative staff, including three new inspectors, and introducing two new projects in schools.

The proposals are outlined in a draft paper which has been sent out to all members of the education committee. This argues that, although much has been achieved, much more could be done to improve multicultural education. Just as there are no second-class citizens, so there must be no second-class educational opportunities.

More should be known about the racial origins of staff and students, he says. "It is remarkable how little we know." The 1971 census figures are out of date and too general and the DES's decision to stop collecting statistics on the number of pupils whose parents were born outside the United Kingdom means that the only data available is from birth figures.

The ILEA also wants closer liaison with race organizations in Inner London and to encourage the "many imaginative and capable people" in the authority who are working in multicultural education. The 1976 Race Relations Act specifically allows positive discrimination in favour of minority groups. The paper proposes to put its into practice by introducing what it calls the Leighton Whole School Project in primary and secondary schools in central London. The whole school would explore changes in the curriculum, an experiment which has been successfully carried out already.

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8,000 children are battered

Nearly 8,000 children are battered by their parents every year in England and Wales; 110 die of their injuries, says a report by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children last week. Their report calls for special "battered child" units to be set up in all major towns and cities after encouraging results from schemes in Manchester and Leeds. The study figures are based on a survey of 778 battered children or potential child battering reported in 1975. Of these, 562 suffered injury, nine died, 114 were seriously injured, including fractures, head injuries, severe burns, poisoning and sexual abuse—420 were moderately injured, 19 failed to thrive through severe malnutrition and the rest were at risk to injury.

The report says: "It is estimated that there are 7,718 children aged 0 to 15 battered each year. This figure would include 110 deaths, 1,568 seriously injured, 5,778 moderately injured and 262 who failed to thrive. These children will also suffer incalculable psychological harm." More than 20 per cent of the children in the survey were less than 12 months old and 62 per cent under four years old. Sixty-six per cent of the children who died were under a year and 43.9 per cent of the seriously injured were under 12 months old. "These findings demonstrate the extreme vulnerability of babies who are more likely to suffer serious injury or death from blows which would not cause serious physical harm to older children."



Comic books at the exhibition of children's books, "After Alice", to mark the centenary of the Library Association, at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, East London, until January 15.

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EEC rules threaten colleges

EEC proposals to regulate correspondence colleges in Britain are inflexible, costly and could mean a reduction in opportunity for a vast number of students, the colleges' accreditation board has told the Government.

The draft directive seeks to bring correspondence students under the umbrella of consumer protection legislation and would require colleges to be much more generous in allowing students to cancel agreements to study. The objections of the British colleges—which include public bodies such as the National and Local Government Officers' Association and the Cooperative Union's college—are that the directive would allow unscrupulous students to receive course materials, duplicate them, then claim their money back. In addition, it would further reduce the number of colleges not to have to pay course fees to rise considerably. The view of the accreditation board is that British students are protected well covered by existing consumer protection legislation.

BACK TO BASIC THINKING

The CoRT Thinking programme developed by Edward de Bono is probably the most widely used programme in the world for the direct teaching of basic thinking skills. Several thousand educational establishments have already acquired the programme for their own study and use. The popularity of the programme arises from its practical and structured approach to the teaching of thinking. This makes it useful to those teachers who have always wanted to treat thinking as a teachable skill. The CoRT programme has been used over a wide range of ages and abilities since thinking is so basic a skill. Teachers find that they can use the solid framework for their own purposes in such areas as: English, General Studies, IDE, Head's contact lesson and as a thinking base for traditional subjects such as Geography and History. The CoRT programme is now complete and the following sections can be used independently or as a whole.

- CoRT 1: BREADTH
 - CoRT 2: ORGANISATION
 - CoRT 3: INTERACTION
 - CoRT 4: CREATIVITY
 - CoRT 5: INFORMATION AND FEELING
 - CoRT 6: ACTION*
- (*CoRT 6 provides a general thinking framework that can be used independently of other CoRT material.)
- Further details from Direct Education Services Ltd, 1 Alfred Street, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7JL.

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More ILEA schools to close says report

The closing of some inner London secondary schools is inevitable because their entries will be reduced by more than a third over the next seven years.

A report from the ILEA's education officer, Mr Peter Newsum, makes it clear that they could not simply reduce school rolls across the board. That would leave some schools in inadequate buildings while other better schools and empty schools to the point where they could not offer a comprehensive curriculum.

The ILEA has already reduced 180 over the last 20 years by closure and amalgamation. The report recognises that in nearly every case this is a painful process.

No figures are given for the numbers that will now have to be closed to take account of the reduction in secondary school rolls that is bound to occur. This is because only 30,000 pupils transferred at 11, whereas by 1984 less than 19,000 will do so.

There are already surplus accommodations in all ILEA areas and projections beyond 1984 suggest that entries will continue to fall. Even if they do not, secondary school rolls will as the small entries work their way through.

To keep all 180 secondary schools open would leave some children in substandard premises, Mr Newsum says.

It would also mean reducing all entries to less than four-form entries which would not only be undesirable but virtually impossible. Legally, the authority would find it very difficult to prevent parents sending their children to the most popular schools with the result that other schools would be considerably undersubscribed.

The ILEA's Development Sub-

committee have accepted five principles that should govern the closing of the secondary school system. These are: the preferences of parents; standards of accommodation; the distribution of mixed single sex, voluntary, large and small schools in any area; and the need to maintain schools that are large enough and have enough scale to offer teachers satisfactory career prospects.

Campaigners against controversial proposals to close down up to 17 primary and secondary schools in the London borough of Haringey have been given fresh ammunition.

The council's plans—outlined in a discussion document for public comment—are based on school population figures which have been challenged by an independent statistician. It is claimed that up to 5,000 more children will be at school in the 1980s than predicted by the local authority.

Mr J. J. Powell, Haringey's education officer in charge of development, said this week that there were differences in the statistics. The borough used figures which were closely tied to its area. Those used by the independent statistician, Mrs Frances Kelly, were based on global figures from the Greater London Council.

Mr Powell said he saw no reason why the authority should change its plans. The document had not committed an in final decision would not be made until next year.

The option of closing schools is based on projections of births and migration trends of families leaving the borough. Mr Alan Groves, chief education officer, said the GLC projections were not comparable with Haringey's. They did not take account of the number of children who went to independent schools or schools in other boroughs.



The Duchess of Bedford reads from her first children's book to pupils at Enfield special school on a boat on the Regent's Canal, London. The trip was the beginning of National Children's Book Week.

DES lists dangerous bacteria

Warnings have been issued by the Department of Education and Science about the use of certain micro-organisms advocated in recent Schools Council and Nuffield science curriculum projects.

The DES has named eight organisms suggested in these projects for school use that are now considered to be unsuitable for use in elementary courses with pupils below the age of 16. They are:

- Clostridium botulinum*
- Clostridium perfringens*
- Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- Pseudomonas solanacearum*
- Pseudomonas tabaci*
- Serratia marcescens*
- Streptococcus aureus*
- Xanthomonas phaseoli*

The projects involved include Nuffield combined science, Nuffield

O-level biology, the Schools Council Integrated Science Project and the Council's Educational Use of Living Organisms.

Mr John Wray, of the Centre for Life Studies at London Zoo and involved in the Schools Council EULO project, said some of these organisms had been widely accepted as safe to use in schools and only recently had a pathogenic tendency been discovered. Serratia marcescens was recommended by at least 20 books.

The DES warning is contained in a new pamphlet called *The Use of Micro-organisms in Schools* and is not intended to curtail work with microbes altogether. It commands their use for demonstrating the biological processes of living organisms and heightening awareness of public health and hygiene. But it warns against experiments suggested by some projects involving painting bacteria onto, spraying them up, touching them through paper. "No experiments involving deliberate contact with the pupil should be permitted," it says.

"All cultures must be potentially hazardous." It could suddenly mutate into new forms, children could be exposed to micro-organisms and some are very difficult to destroy from similar but dangerous relatives.

The pamphlet outlines procedures and good practice that should be adopted in schools, and requires any complicated work on the part of the teacher to be done in a laboratory. The use of micro-organisms in Schools Education Pamphlet HMSO, 95p.

Pupils as 'square' as their parents

By Bob Doe

Most young people are satisfied with their schooling though they are concerned about its vocational usefulness, according to a survey of the attitudes of 800 10 to 25-year-olds in Britain.

The survey, part of an exercise carried out throughout Europe for an advertising agency, suggested that young people do not differ much from their parents. They have what might be called "perverse" views about sex and marriage, support conventional political parties, but tend to be rather tough minded about things like employment, crime and punishment.

Most live at home, get on well with their parents, share a bedroom, have mothers that work, get better jobs than their parents and save their money. They like watching television, listening to music and going out with friends.

British youngsters were less critical of their education than the young of any other European country says the survey. Seventy-four per cent said it was only "fair", "poor" or "very poor indeed".

Schoolboys aged 10 to 14 were more satisfied, 76 per cent said their schools were "good" or "excellent". Students in higher education were highly satisfied, with 83 per cent saying their education was good or excellent.

There is no "student problem" in Britain it says, and the "long-haired layabout" image of youth is very wide of the mark.

Nevertheless more than half the 16 to 19's and just under half the older group experienced difficulties because they chose the wrong subjects at school. Overall, a quarter said this was a substantial problem. But the biggest worry of all was unemployment. Three-quarters of the 16 to 19-year-olds said they had great difficulty finding jobs. Many were unsure about their future.

In spite of their own difficulties, they were intolerant of the unemployed. Three-quarters believed that those out of work could get jobs if they tried.

Most young Britishers want to bring back hanging. Fifty per cent want tougher restrictions on immigration and one in eight believed that blacks should not be given the same opportunities as whites. This attitude was especially pronounced among young working men of 15 to 19. Of those born outside Britain, none wanted to return to their places of birth.

Half of all 10 to 25-year-olds want aid in the Third World cut and more than 80 per cent said they would fight for Britain if there was a war.

Of the 83 per cent who said they would vote in an election, Labour has the 10 per cent lead over the Tories. The 20 to 25-year-olds tended to favour the Tories.

Only about five per cent would vote for a party other than Conservative, Liberal or Labour. Most of those voted for nationalist parties, but the majority of these were only about one per cent. Support from the National Front was particularly noticeable among the 15 to 19-year-olds, two per cent of whom would vote this way.

Most young people expect to marry and have children, but nearly two-thirds thought they might also get divorced.

Young People Today, a survey of youth in Britain by McCann-Erickson Advertising Ltd., September 1977.

Too eager to ditch the troublemakers

Schools are too eager to wash their hands of troublesome pupils, according to local authority social services department chiefs.

The views of 66 of them were published this week by the British Association of Social Workers. They support the assertion by the Taylor Committee that suspensions from school are a matter of great public concern.

One told the association: "Some schools are too ready to exclude difficult and disruptive pupils. . . . It seems to me that there are certain people in the teaching profession who seem to think they are able to wash their hands of the problem—perhaps by looking to agencies outside the education service for solutions."

Mr Clive Andrews, general secretary of the association, said: "Many of these children get into further difficulties largely as a result of the education department's failure to provide whole-time education for them."

The problem is not extensive, the report says. Very few children are involved, and 28 of the directors one cited a child remained sus-

pected for nine months. The longer they were suspended, the more likely they were to get into more trouble.

The directors also complained about schools which refused to take children on their rolls because they were in care or had just returned from community homes. Girls were excluded because they had become pregnant and regardless of whether they were disruptive or difficult.

Equally unsatisfactory were the informal suspensions that sometimes occurred. One director complained of "inlet collusion between the school and the child which accepts that it is easier for everybody concerned if he does not attend."

Another said this was all part of a much wider problem. "Many children excluded from school have been showing symptoms of disturbance for some time before it reaches the point of exclusion." The education welfare services either did too little or did it too late.

Children Excluded from School, a survey by the IASW, 16 Kent Street, Birmingham B5 6RD.

Stockport's ratio battle ends

Teachers and their employers reached agreement in Stockport this week on a long-running dispute about over-sized classes.

Stockport education authority has agreed to implement in full the proposals made by an arbitration panel that most teachers should be allowed to raise the borough from the bottom of the pupil-teacher ratio league table.

The arbitrators recommend an improvement in the ratios which will mean a extra 21 teachers will have to be hired. The threat of renewed sanctions has now disappeared. Teachers had worried that they would lose classes with more than 30 pupils if the arbitrators' report was not implemented.

Lecturers demand 16 per cent

University lecturers will demand a 16 per cent pay rise from October 1 in an emergency meeting of the Association of University Teachers agreed last week. They want it added to the claim already in for rises of between 12 and 16 per cent from August 1 in settlement of the 1975 anomaly.

That alone, if agreed, would bring a lecturer's minimum salary to about £4,222 a year end a professor's average to about £13,103.

The universities' grant for 1977/78 allowed for only five per cent increases. The Government has indicated, however, that the grant would be reviewed if the pace of pay and prices increased at a rate "substantially higher".

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals estimates that every one per cent over ten per cent by which salaries (academic and non-academic) rise will cost universities £3.5m.

The latest claim has yet to be agreed with the Universities Admissions Panel, the joint negotiating body between the university authorities and the association. In any case, the lecturers insist that it is secondary and without prejudice to the settlement of the anomaly.

To push for a settlement, the lecturers agreed (by 230 votes to nine) to hold a mass meeting and to lobby Parliament on November 18. About 5,000 lecturers are expected to turn up.

Tuition for Degrees, Teaching and GCE

Wolsey Hall the Oxford correspondence college, offers really individual instruction by qualified tutors. The range of subjects and examinations covered is wide and includes subjects vital both to teachers and to those of their pupils leaving school without proper careers qualifications.

Teaching—Courses cover the Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma in Education, ACP, LCP, London Certificate of Proficiency and the Cambridge Diploma and Certificate in Religious Studies.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

John Rae Before the rot set in

A publisher tells me that the public school novel is a literary genre that should be regarded as dead. It is, he says, "a can see his publisher's public schoolboys the nostalgic attachment to the romantic world of their youth is no longer strong enough to accelerate through several editions in one year the modern equivalent of Horace Wansley Vachell's *The Hill* or Alec Wright's *The Loom of Youth*."

They may enjoy their school days, but the life style of the contemporary public school lacks the immediacy of experience that so profoundly affected the boys of earlier generations. For many public schoolboys of the past, no subsequent experience, neither lives, neither love, nor power, neither danger nor success, could quite evoke the intense emotions of their five years at boarding school.

I have often wondered whether the extraordinary bravery displayed by some members of the British Expeditionary Force in the fact that they knew that the best of life was already behind them, that after his heady days of Pop and Phil, no experience was worth waiting for, so one might as well go out in style on Spion Kop or the first day of the Somme.

It is the intensity of experience that the best public school novels capture. To read them again after thirty years can be moving but also something of a shock. On the surface, attitudes have changed so much. The *Hill* opens with uncle playing cards at the club, the next term, "You'll find plenty of fellows abusing Harrow," he said quietly, "but what it from me, that the thou. Such boys, as a rule, do not come out of the top drawer."

Why does that jar so badly on our sensibilities? Is the obvious answer correct or is it because charged at all and it is a shock to hear stated, bluntly what we whisper in the secret of our hearts? It is also a valuable piece of historical evidence. Published in 1905, it ran through five editions in six months. It is subtitled *Romance of Friendship and the Boy's War*. I know of no other book that reveals so tellingly the virtues and flaws of the public

school system at the height of its influence and power. It will guide to the attitudes of upper-class Edwardian England than a learned study.

Consider, for example, the attitudes to trade in industry that are explicit in the story, and the prejudices of boys, masters and parents. Historians have the extraordinary degree to which the Victorian and Edwardian public school rejected the industrial and commercial society that was the nation's wealth. As the goodies approach the school, they are greeted with a "so what's a correct man?" some discussion of the thought "acceptable. Our new Minister. His friend will follow his father's lead and go to the army, the other to foreign service will be a good attitude beside me. I am an engineer, but I think I shall try any historian who seeks into the attitudes and prejudices of the English upper classes in the years between 1870 and the end of the First World War. It remains a splendid story, fully constructed, appealing to heart but never allowing sensuality to degenerate into the boys of the time would have called a "stud". It is to be written. Other headmaster take a different view though I expect that in most cases the effect is ambivalent, half hoping for what a budding Vachell or Thomas Hughes is even now writing material for a new-style school novel.

'Not another shake-up'—ACC

Strong reaction to the Labour Party's proposal for another local government reorganization has come this week from the Association of Councils and the Society of Education Officers.

The SEO said in a letter to Environment Secretary, Mr Peter Shore, that they viewed the possibility of another change so quickly after 1974 with "utter dismay". The society said it would view the transfer of education to new districts as a "very unfortunate step".

The ACC's education committee chairman, Mr John Forester, said: "Any further reorganization would be disruptive and costly and would adversely affect the service given to individual children." A statement from the association this week said changes could not be justified at a time when education needed a period of stability, when financial resources were limited and when L.O.s needed the maximum amount of flexibility because of falling school populations.

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Parents of deaf fobbed off with gobbledygook

Parents of deaf children who have found that parents' complaints are remarkably similar, regardless of their child's handicap, a member of the committee said last week.

Mrs Winifred Tunlin, chairman of the National Deaf Children's Society, told a conference organized by the society in Manchester, that parents mostly complained that professionals gave them inadequate information. If they did condescend to provide it, it was given in "intelligible" gobbledygook. They also said that no one listened to them and they were given unrealistic advice.

She warned that stress could be increased in families by the very services designed to help them. If society provided vast complex services it was hardly surprising that they raised expectations. Then if they failed to deliver the goods, it caused anxiety and stress. Professionals should be aware of this, she said.

Numbers row probe takes the NUT by surprise

Mrs Shirley Williams's decision to call in the independent Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service to settle a dispute over membership of teachers' unions and the seats they can claim at meetings with her has brought a swift response from the National Union of Teachers.

Mr Prad Jarvis, NUT general secretary, said this week that he had written to the Education Secretary, asking for clarification of her intentions in approaching ACAS. Mrs Jarvis said he understood that Mrs Williams would seek the advice of ACAS on the best formula for teacher representation at meetings with the Schools Council.

"Now there is talk of a further 'probe'. This is not what we would need to raise this with the Education Secretary if this is her intention."

The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers has pointed out to Mrs Williams that membership has jumped from 80,800 in December last year to 94,500 last month. The NUT replied this week that it too had enrolled more teachers.

Although an accurate figure will not be available until January, the NUT says it has 100,000 members compared with 229,000 when the Schools Council looked at the books.

from being vaccinated against German measles. More research should be done into genetic deafness by studying the inner ear; far too much time and money was wasted on setting up committees instead.

A national programme should be set up to standardize the diagnosis and screening of deaf children as far too many were discovered too late. Techniques were often badly applied by poorly trained people or to children whose screening tests although their mothers suspected that something was wrong.

Professor Taylor said that the role of the peripatetic teacher of the deaf should be more clearly defined. At present many seemed confused as to whether they should be teaching or supervising. As there were never going to be enough teachers of the deaf, he thought that peripatetic ones should train and guide remedial teachers of ordinary children to help the deaf.

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The tuned-up, plugged-in, all-American way to reading and writing

Above a church hall in Pinckney, South London, a group of English children who have difficulty with reading and writing are learning how their American counterparts overcome their problems.

For the past three years the Development Centre, Florida, has run a London branch for 300 American and English pupils at Nepler Hall, Hyde Place, SW1.

The founders of the Florida Centre—two psychologists—have designed remedial programmes which can be adapted to suit individual needs.

The skills for acquiring literacy are developed by means of graded exercises, educational games and physical activities.

We use a multi-sensory approach to train children in the arts of visual perception, auditory and sensory discrimination and to help those with a confused sense of orientation," said Miss Friendly, who is head of the London centre.

Many of our children could be described as dyslexic, although we do not use that term here. We will only make children with specific learning difficulties reading and writing. All the children have to be assessed by the educational psychologists at the Florida Centre before they come to us.

It has been so reassuring for me and my son to discover that he has got a specific learning difficulty and that he is not just stupid," said one mother.

Since he has been at the centre he has become a confident and happy child. He has improved enormously. Before we had him extra help after school, but just did not work. He resented it and he was unpopular with his classmates. Because he is an intelligent child, his inability to read and write was particularly frustrating and he took it out on everyone else.

The centre works in close co-operation with parents, who are often talk to parents when they come to collect their child after school and they can see by the doing," said Miss Friendly. "It is helpful to us to learn from them how a child is reacting, how they feel when he gets home, whether he is under too much strain."

We also advise parents on any activities that they can organize in addition to our programme. Our homework because the work they do here is sufficiently intensive.



"They listen to the slow, reassuring tones of the American tutor..."

enjoy using the machines, the subject matter does not differ greatly from that found in many English textbooks.

The vast of their day is devoted to worksheets, specially graded reading texts, some basic maths and exercises on the balance beam or with punch bags, to help those who have difficulty in distinguishing left from right.

Parents of present pupils are also full of praise. Many of them have noticed that their children have gained in confidence because they are being given work they can cope with.

But it is a short day and the pupils towards the end of the day are tired and their concentration is flagging. They are not able to tackle abstract facts. We hope that parents broaden their education by taking them to exhibitions, museums, concerts and the theatre.

"We are also organizing a visit to Greenwich so that American kids in London will learn things about their new environment. This project is quite new and shows that we are beginning to grow in a different way from Florida Centre."

Betka Zambo

Tory concern switches from grammar schools to academic standards

by Stephen Cohen

From Bulper to Birkenhead, from Chesterfield to Chertsey, and from Waddesfield to Wrotham, local Conservative parties have spoken with one voice. Academic standards in schools must be improved.

Thirty-eight resolutions submitted for the Conservative Party's annual conference in Blackpool next week deplore, condemn, express dissatisfaction with or view with concern the lowering of standards and urge the next Tory government to do something about it.

In all 120 motions were put forward for the education debate on Tuesday morning. Only one has been chosen and that expresses alarm at the "continuing evidence of falling standards in education."

The Sussex West Conservative Association, which will meet the education debate, will call on the next Conservative government to ensure that the standards of education are maintained and improved.

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They describe themselves as "two interested members of the public" and put forward their own proposal to reorganise exams and the curriculum.

"The Secretary of State should intervene now to restore a sense of direction to teaching in schools which is badly lacking," she says. "She should issue positive guidelines as to how teaching in schools can meet the needs of society and the children. She must encourage the adoption of these guidelines by whatever legal means are at her disposal."

These include the exam system, specific grants to encourage the teaching of compulsory subjects and the use of national and local inspectors.

They accuse the Department of Education and Science of "inability to take any effective remedial teaching steps so that the kids can return to normal schooling," says Miss Friendly. "Until they have made basic literacy and numeracy are not able to tackle abstract facts. We hope that parents broaden their education by taking them to exhibitions, museums, concerts and the theatre."

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Study links poverty and performance

Children from the poorest homes do worse in maths and reading tests—and misbehave more at school—than other pupils, according to the latest findings from the National Child Development Study.

The study, by the National Child Development Study, is tracing the progress through life of children born in one week in 1978 in England, Wales, and Scotland.

Nine hundred of some 12,000 16-year-olds came from families dependent on supplementary benefits or family income supplements. When given a special maths test devised by the National Foundation for Educational Research and a reading comprehension test similar to the Watts-Vernon test, these did

significantly worse than fellow pupils even when allowances were made for social class differences. Behaviour tests, by means of the Rutter School Behaviour scale, showed that even after adjusting for social class, the children from the poor homes were likely to be the worst.

Though they were for more likely than the others to want to leave school early, few gave proverbs from parents or teachers as a reason. This was particularly important, say the researchers. It showed that parents were not forcing children to leave school to earn money. Asked why they wanted to leave so soon, children from poor homes were more likely than their fellows

to say they disliked school work, that they were not good enough, and that they wanted independence and money. There were no real differences between the children when they were asked questions about academic motivation.

The findings, published as an appendix to the annual report of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, also compared the educational attainment, behaviour, and reading plans of children whose parents were on benefits when they were 11 and 16. By and large children whose parents were on benefits at both ages did worst of all.

Supplementary Benefits Commission Annual Report 1976. HMSO E4.15.

Language check on 'Drudgery' of play among handicapped

Many studies of children's play have dealt with babies, children over three (usually in organized places such as nursery schools) and children brought into laboratories for the purpose. Dr Mary Skerif, who has spent a year looking at observing the spontaneous play of children between one and three.

She was particularly concerned to study normal children with a view to helping the development of handicapped ones. One of the conclusions of her new book, published this week, which describes (with many illustrations) normal stages in the development of play and handicapped children's play, is that "some of the so-called 'play' I have seen proceed upon handicapped children, always with the very best intentions, has been perfunctory and drudgery."

Spontaneous play in early childhood. NFER publishing company £2.50.



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Keep autistic out of hospitals

A plea to save "near normal" autistic children from life in hospitals for the mentally subnormal has been made by the National Society for Autistic Children.

In a report, 50 near, and yet... autistic children from life in hospitals for the mentally subnormal has been made by the National Society for Autistic Children.

Too often when parents died or could no longer look after their children, the only place to them was in hospital. This was a constant nightmare for parents.

Autism is a devastating handicap which milder or severe, says the report. About one in every 10,000 of school-age children have

marked symptoms autism is more common than blindness and partial sightedness and slightly less than profound deafness. Autistic children have difficulty in interpreting the meaning of words, an associating them with real objects. Their intelligence varies from above average to severely subnormal.

The society recommends more research into the capabilities of near normal autistic children so that these can be channelled into practical skills. Parents should be given more help and guidance.

So near, and yet... 25p from the National Society for Autistic Children, 16, Coleridge, Green Road, London, NW11 8EA.

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Bert Lodge reports from Ulster



The hate goes on

There was this kind of the local... Bert Lodge reports from Ulster... The hate goes on... Through chiefs of both sides urged their followers to live in peace...

Education appears to be the most promising territory for the reform... Educational journalists at a dinner in Belfast last week asked the 29-year-old Lord Mather...

As Mr James Conlon, head of St Columba's College, Derry, put it: 'It is too much to ask that our educational system, controlled as it is by non-elected civil servants and non-elected area boards, should have some safeguard against the flight of a non-elected Minister?'

11-plus was to end in Northern Ireland, is fairly typical in the voluntary sector, despite the bland insistence of Government spokesmen that there has been 'no major adverse reaction' to the move.

Even Father Colin McCaughan, vice-chairman of the Belfast Education and Library Board, though speaking in this instance for the Roman Catholic schools, could say no more than that they had given the comprehensive proposals 'a tentative welcome'.

God and Mammon are going to have an interesting tussle here. Down on the proud occasional adulterations of bigoted denominational purity can occasionally be found. But the nervousness accompanying their discovery is not encouraging.

500,000 with difficulties

Nearly 500,000 children with learning or other difficulties were taught in special short-stay groups in 20,800 state primary and secondary schools in January last year, according to a survey carried out by the Department of Education and Science.

The 494,000-308,000 boys and 186,000 girls represented about 57 per cent of all pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools in England and Wales.

Details of the survey are contained in a new set of statistics for schools in 1976 published by the Department of Education and Science, HMSO 54.76.

Get staff to tag truants, i.e.a. told

An early warning system to enable teachers to spot truanting pupils and induce them to come to lessons is recommended by Edling Community Relations Council in a report to the local authority.

Every subject teacher should keep a register and then names of absent pupils should be given to a senior member of staff, says the council. A letter should then be sent to the parents informing them of the absence. This should be followed by a visit to the home if the parents do not reply.

Art teachers 'under-used and mis-directed'

Art and design should be given a more central place in the school curriculum, says the National Society for Art Education, the art teachers' professional association.

An understanding of design and visual awareness is an important factor in the growth of the country's economy, says Mr Leonard Stoppard, the society's president and principal of The West Surrey College of Art and Design, in a new policy statement on the future of art and design education.

Fewer want to speak Welsh

A Welsh Education Office study of three counties—Gwynedd, Merioneth and Powys—shows a sharp drop in the use of the Welsh language in primary schools. According to the study 55 per cent of Gwynedd primary school children are fluent in Welsh. For Dyfed and Powys the figures are, respectively, 32 per cent and 10 per cent.

The last comparable survey was in 1974, before local government reorganisation. Then the figure in the language among primary school children in six Welsh strongholds of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Merioneth (which merged to become Gwynedd) was 79 per cent, 72 per cent and 83 per cent, respectively. The current survey shows a reduction to 48 per cent, 56 per cent and 64 per cent.

The report warns that unless the present trends are reversed, there could be staff shortages because not enough fluent Welsh-speaking teachers will come forward to maintain a bilingual policy.

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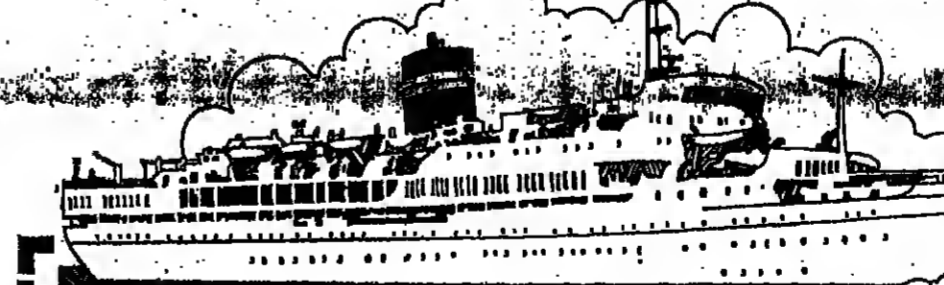
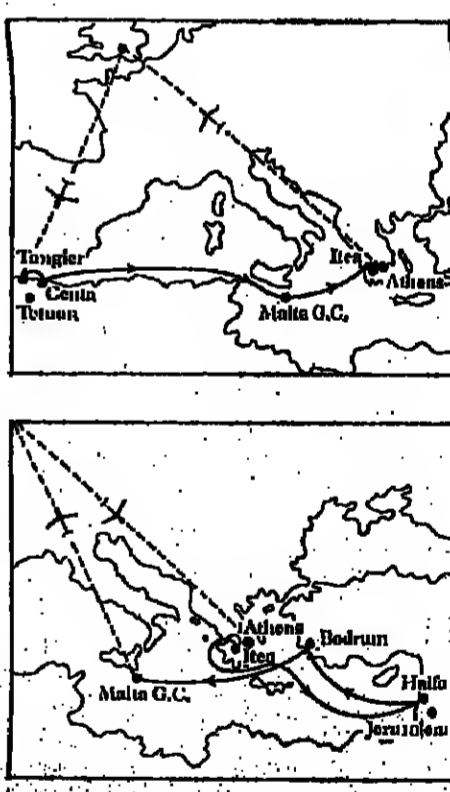
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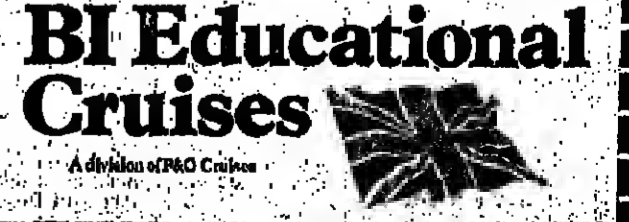
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MSC steps in to plug gaps in training

The Manpower Services Commission, forced to shelve its plans for a national industrial training scheme, this week welcomed a proposal that it should take on the job of patching holes in industry's own training programmes.

This new role for the commission is spelled out in the report of the Vital Skills Task Group. This was set up by the Employment Secretary in March after opposition from employers forced the Government to drop the idea of an overall training programme for which industry and the Treasury would share the costs. The group, drawn from the CBI, the TUC, and the education service, and headed by the commission's chairman, Mr Richard O'Brien, recommends that the temporary grants to help employers with training costs should end next autumn.

The report proposes a 4-stage approach. Each sector of industry and commerce should assess its manpower needs, and plan to prevent skill imbalances from developing; the commission should coordinate action where imbalances affect several industries; training boards and others should identify cases needing additional help; the commission should provide the help needed.

Although the proposals leave training boards and other organizations with their present role intact, the report says their co-ordination will increase their effectiveness, and force them, where necessary, to coordinate their activities in a way which has been lacking so far.

Some boards have powerful friends within the TUC leadership—Mr Hugh Scanlon, for instance, is the chairman of the engineering board—but some are perpetual ineffectives. One TUC official said this week: "Whatever you may think of the report, from the principle of collective funding, the report can be seen as giving the boards a last chance to show they can do the job properly with some help."

The commission will give its views on the proposal formally to Mr Booth next month.

Shortage of careers guidance in Ulster—survey

More than half of Northern Ireland's 262 secondary schools have no trained careers staff and 46 have no teacher who has attended even a short course on careers or counselling, according to a Department of Education survey. Only four schools teach careers to all pupils; almost 100 do not teach it at all. In schools where it is taught, the number of hours varies from one to 26 hours a week.

Some schools give staff no time for careers administration; others give 14 or even 20 hours a week. Only 14 schools did staff devote the intended careers duties outside their normal duties and many teachers obviously spent a great deal of their personal time on careers work.

Sixty schools said careers issues were given significant consideration in planning the curriculum, 54 that they were given some consideration, and 38 that little or no attention was paid to them. One school claimed that careers education is "inherently expensive and redundant. It falls very low in our priority. The work of civilising and class teaching consumes our time."

Chaos in no-man's land between school and work

by Mark Jackson

With rising share prices bringing out the natural benevolence of businessmen, the sound and fury of the Great Dehone has faded. Only now is it possible to make out certain small peevish voices questioning one of its central assumptions—that there is a great, empty no-man's land between school, industry, and the people and organizations that must be filled in.

What some careers officers and teachers have been trying to point out is that the territory is already crowded with groups and organizations, all busy promoting their own schemes—school industry links, curriculum development, technological understanding—and falling over each other as they try to dole out the barriers, clichés and exhortations rained down on them from without.

Now their attempts to clarify the situation are receiving unexpectedly enthusiastic support from two official surveys which have charted the uncontrolled growth in the liaison business in recent years. The information has surfaced as a by-product of studies into the shortage of technological talent in production management, conducted simultaneously by two quite unconnected bodies, the Department of Industry's Mueller Committee project and the British Association of Astun universities project, the main findings of which have already been reported in the TES.

Both groups found it difficult to conceal their surprise and concern at the proliferation of organizations, taking place.

The Mueller report has hinted delicately at its disquiet by setting out current activities in considerable detail and suggesting a more coordinated approach, including, perhaps, a clearing house for information.

This is the picture disclosed in the report: at national level there are three government departments—

Schools Council: Developing two projects—a modular course in technology and the industry project, in which schools and industry will work together with the council's researchers on new ways of teaching about work and about industrial society. The CBI and TUC are involved.

Understanding British Industry—an educational foundation set up by the CBI with funds from industrial relationships between schools and industry. The Mueller report says that UBI will have a centre for the development of resources. In fact, there has been a good deal of initial confusion among existing organizations as to precisely what the main function of the new set up will be.

Some of those asked to cooperate, such as the National Union of Teachers, were under the impression that UBI would be mainly a source of referrals for schools, but this will be one function, the chief use and communications between schools and firms. The CBI already has a scheme under which teachers spend up to three weeks in industry or commerce.

Industry link schemes and advisory services: the chemical and electronics industries get some firms to provide staff members to act as mentors for the industry as a whole. Most science teachers at local schools. Some other industries run school advisory services.

The Learning from Industrial Processes Scheme: Guided by a steering group representing the DES and DOS, scientists and the professions, teachers have been trying to identify the scientific principles involved in actual production processes and turn them into philosophy based science lessons. A pilot study is being evaluated.

Work experience: the report merely says that the DES issues guidance on the kind of scheme that can run under the 1973 Act to local authorities. A Level Business Studies Project Trust is funded by the Wolfson Business Studies Trust, as a result of which two examination boards

Industry, Education and Employment, all involved in the ing cooperation between industry.

They work jointly as a continuing bodies representing employers' unions, teachers' others—Project Engineers, the Standing Committee for Science and Technology.

The views of industry, fed to the department, the industrial training organizations are on PETI, on the SCST. In Scotland, the Scottish Committee for Industry Liaison, working with the Scottish Office, brings a national level.

At regional level, committees in England and Wales are being carried out by the Technology Regional Organizations (SATROs) sponsored by the SCST. Their main aim is to develop curricula, aids, and to relate schoolwork to industry requirements.

The Mueller report says SATROs "try to pay their help from local education authorities without mentioning that they have so far been helped by the lack of such help from the Department of Industry's money through PETI."

The report anticipates the new CBI scheme, under which British industry—described as will liaise closely with the school and other organizations at the local level.

At a local level, a number of activities which are currently or planned (see below)—without regard to how they fit in with each other or whether they work in coordinating machinery.

now offer a level business at a national level.

The Careers Research Centre (CRC) is comprised of firms willing to help with business projects, and to provide business studies teachers in the use of developed companies for their training.

The Industrial Society: runs day conferences in schools for sixth-formers aware of the industry and commerce links, and to persuade them need for management education and consent. Up to 100 pupils will attend the conferences this year, and a manual so that they can use the Project Trident: gets second staff to help schools with work experience and service; sponsors residential and expeditions.

Young Enterprise: staff help pupils to set up their own companies. The National Centre in Technology: established by Schools Council mainly in-service and initial training of technology. The Journal School Year: The Association for Science Education seeks to improve teaching.

The schools and the of the Mathematics encourages teachers and cooperate in showing relevance of maths to the centres to help teachers with development in The Careers and Occupational Information Centre of the Services Agency: provides a culture to careers officers and teachers.

The Engineering Careers Information Service: sponsored by industry's employers, under training board. It issues material on engineering. Project Engineers and Technicians Tomorrow (PETT): an attempt to coordinate work at national level. PETT material about industry and information direct to school.

Who's doing what

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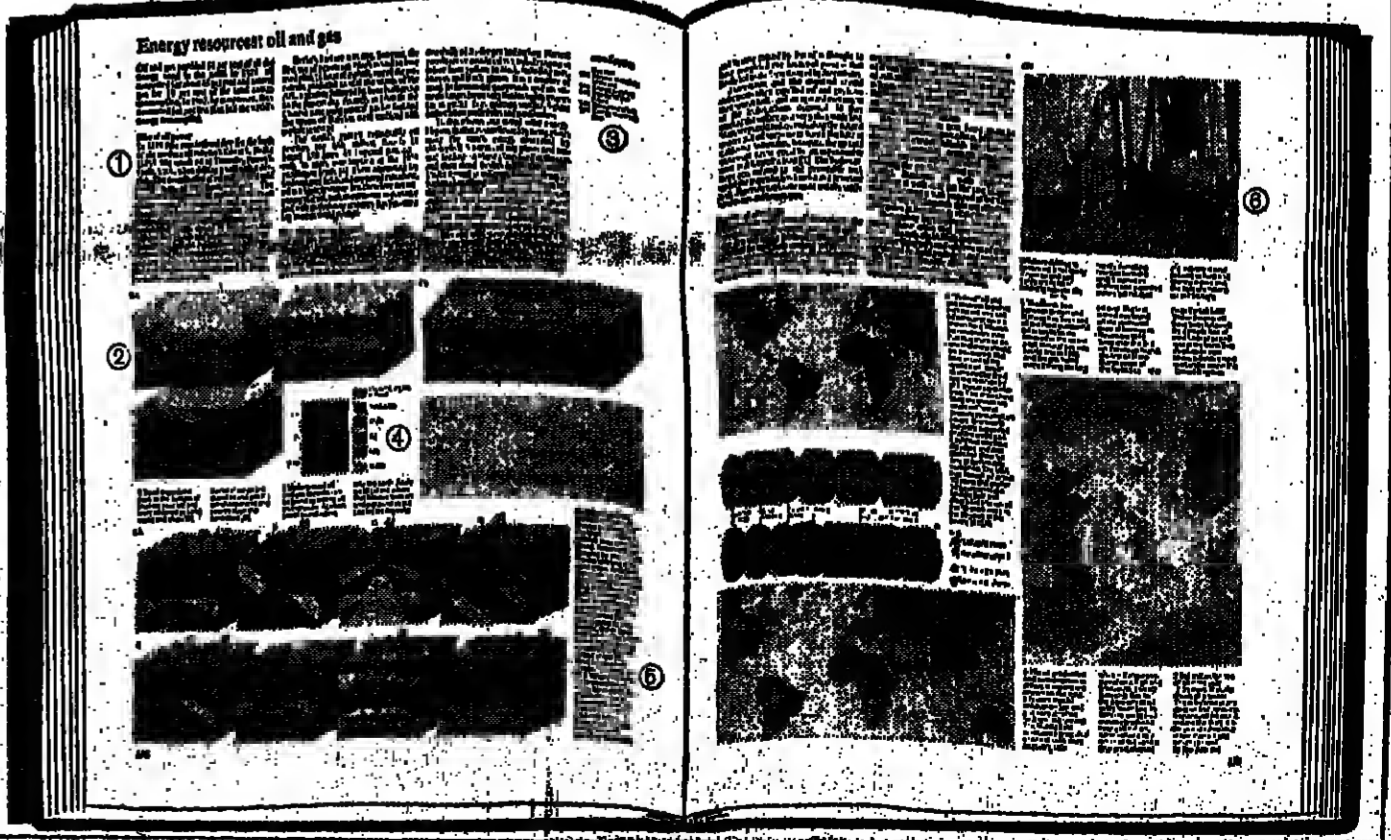
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Handwritten text: 1978/79

Aware of world problems, but...

Assistance to developing countries is being by most sixth-formers to be of the "blanket and food parcel type" according to a survey undertaken by the Central Office of Information for the Ministry of Overseas Development.

Only a few of them were aware of the British Government's programme. Only one in six had any idea of the size of the budget or what it was used for.

The survey—carried out in two comprehensive schools in Leicester-shire, two middle schools in Bedfordshire and two selective schools in Buckinghamshire and Surrey—was considered by a recent conference on development education in schools at Trent Park College, Harfordshire.

It showed that children were aware of world problems, but not human, cultural and social relationships. Development education appeared in geography and religious studies programmes. But the degree to which it was taken depended on the enthusiasm and initiative of individual teachers.

Although most teachers agreed that the subject should be introduced early and taught continuously in the school, they were quite giving it a separate place in the curriculum. They were also aware of the need to meet examination requirements and a lack of guidance or experience in teaching materials provided by the Ministry were propagandist, over-simplified in language and concept, and had no clear educational aim. Material produced by Oxford and other voluntary organizations was preferred.

The conference, which was organized by the Centre for World Development Education, expressed concern at the lack of information and coordination in development education and called for a central agency to be set up under the auspices of the Department of Education and Science and the Ministry of Overseas Development.

It demanded that bulletins should be issued regularly and that resources and exchange centres should be established.

Tennis and hockey seek new sponsors

Although Essex moved in quickly to keep afloat the junior swimming structure previously supported by Green Shield, grass roots tennis and schools hockey will likely suffer unless they can soon find new sponsors.

These three sports shared, in various proportions, the £1m spent by the stamp trading company in sponsoring junior sport during the past 10 years.

Mr Donald Newton, secretary of the English Schoolboys Hockey Association, said that the steady expansion of schools' hockey might be brought up about with a job.

The association's international programme was not likely to suffer because of Sports Council support, but "bread-and-butter" sports, especially for the boys and girls, will continue to be in a difficult position.

The proficiency award scheme for this season, said Mr Cedman, chief national officer of the Hockey Association, was made to keep the scheme alive in the future.

Keeping alive the 1977/78 roots tennis scheme is the priority, said Mr Peter Johnson, secretary of the Lawn Tennis Association.

The junior tournament, over, would continue as a sponsor but the LTA is a commercial backing to keep standards of recent years.

A black and white case for turning down the more able

Do American universities have the right to exclude better qualified white applicants in order to increase the number of "minority students"? The US Supreme Court starts hearing a major civil rights suit on the question next week. Michael Binon, North American correspondent, reports.

It is a simple case: the Government's commitment to abide by the promises implied in all the civil rights legislation—affirmative action—has not only equal opportunity but a better chance in life than they have ever had before.

The programme is enforced by a very simple means: the Government refuses to award any contract to a company or enterprise that practices discrimination. This is easily applied to universities. They are heavily dependent on the Government for research contracts. If they discriminate, they get no money.

But affirmative action has come to mean more than just non-discrimination. It has been interpreted as a positive effort to increase the proportion of minorities in every major institution in the point where it is roughly equal to the minority population of the country, and the programme has recently been extended to include the largest "minority" of all—women.

Compliance with the programme is judged simply by comparative statistics: if a university had a low number of minority lecturers four years ago, and still has the same low proportion four years later, it is in breach of the programme and will be threatened with financial penalties. The same is true of libraries, Government offices, schools—indeed almost any semi-public institution.

Each institution is urged to set its goals for the increased intake of minorities. Theoretically, these are not meant to be quotas. But if the "goals" are not met, the institution suffers. In practice, therefore, many universities and public institutions deliberately discriminate in favour of women and blacks, even if they are less qualified for the post advertised, in order to allow progress towards meeting their goals.

Affirmative action is considered an enormous importance by blacks (and many women) in fulfilment of the promises of equal opportunity. To rule it unconstitutional would be seen as a betrayal of the civil rights legislation.

On the other hand, the programme is increasingly unpopular with universities and organizations which feel unable to select candidates purely on the basis of merit. And it is bitterly opposed by other minority groups, for it only applies to the designated minorities deemed in need of help.

If therefore the court supports the university, there will be outcry from Jewish, Polish, Italian, Ukrainian and other groups in America which have all submitted testimony on behalf of Bakke. Some, such as the Jews, who are well represented in universities, feel they are being penalized for their own hard work in getting to the top on their own merit. Others, such as the Italians, do not understand why some groups that have been low on the social scale, such as themselves, should be favoured and others not.

There will also be strong objections from some university circles which see affirmative action as a threat to academic autonomy, from libertarians who see any reintroduction of racial criteria—in what ever guise—as a step towards social harmony, and from the great mass of white Americans who would be agitated at the institutionalization of a quota system in Government, employment and public life.

The issue has bitterly divided America. President Carter is on



Middle-class blacks: how to get more into universities and the professions?

The Supreme Court to interpret the matter as narrowly as possible—with the obvious political intention of not letting the court judgment affect those programmes all over the country now in force.

Exactly how the court will vote is difficult to say. Though it is clearly not as liberal in its interpretation of the Constitution as it used to be—it has been taking a hard line recently on busing and de facto discrimination—it is an unpredictable court.

Civil rights activists are sure that it will uphold Bakke. Many were already strongly opposed to the university taking the matter to the Supreme Court in the first place, arguing that it was better to concede defeat in California and reinstate the affirmative action programmes elsewhere rather than risk a blanket cancellation of all such programmes all over the country.

All the universities will be grateful for a ruling. At the moment they are in a Catch 22 situation: if they discriminate against whites, they are sued. If they select only on merit—and given the small pool of qualified minority candidates this would not change the racial balance much—they lose their Government funds.

The 1954 Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation in schools was the battering ram used to begin the breakdown of racial discrimination in all sectors of American society. The Bakke case is arguably the most crucial since then. The court's decision is not expected for several months.

People

Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw, vice-president of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, is to succeed the Duke of Edinburgh as president of the institute on January 1.

Mr J. F. M. Trim, director of the department of Linguistics, University of Cambridge, has been appointed director of the Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research.

Mr Frank Robinson, Somerset County Council's careers officer, has been appointed national president of the Institute of Careers Officers.

Professor G. Allen, professor of chemical technology at Imperial College, London, is to be chairman of the Science Research Council.

Schools

Mr Arthur Meadows, head of Grinstead CE primary school, Ribblesdale, has been appointed head of Clayton-Moors All Saints CE primary school, Hyndburn District.

Mr Winifred Pringle, head of Friar School, Dalwick, is to be head of Friar and Honor Oak schools, London.

Mrs V. M. Jeanner, deputy head of St. Peter's primary school, Brighton, is to be head of Blackwell Infant School, East Grinstead.

Universities

Professor V. Alan McClelland, professor of education in the National University of Ireland and head of the department of education at University College, Cork, is to be professor of educational studies at the University of Hull.

Professor G. A. Akkioff, BA, PhD, associate professor of the University of California, to the Cessal chair of economics with special reference to money and banking at the London School of Economics.

Dr N. Crawford, reader in biochemistry at the University of Birmingham, to the Oulton chair of biochemistry at the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences.

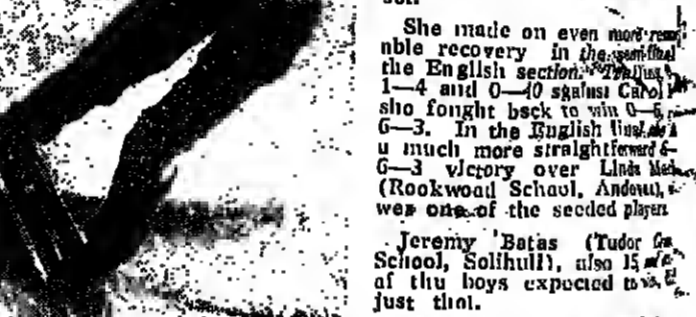
Dr A. T. Diplock, reader in biochemistry at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, to the chair of biochemistry at Guy's Hospital Medical School.

Title goes to outsider Jew

Jenny Blyth-Lewis, a 15-year-old from Tunbridge Wells, came out of the blue to win the 1977 junior tennis international at Queen's Club, London. Jew, outsider, beat the more experienced Luiso Taff, who is in the Federation Cup team, 7-5, after going 5-1 down in the set.

She made an even more remarkable recovery in the English section, 7-5, 1-4 and 0-10 against Carol who fought back to win 6-4, 6-3, in the English final—a much more straightforward 6-3 victory over Lisa Black (Rookwood School, Andover), who was one of the seeded players.

Jeremy Bates (Tudor School, Solihull), also 15, was one of the boys expected to do just this.



Thu Lewis, 15-year-old from Creydon, Surrey, skates for joy in the skateboarding world championships at Long Beach, California.

Move to help skiing

Plans are afoot to establish a schools' organization in England. The man behind the scheme is Mr George Slea, regional outdoor activities adviser for Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside.

He has invited all interested to hold a touch with him in the form of a regional meeting later in the year to set the project on its feet.

Mr Slea, chairman of a working party on schools' skiing set up within the National Ski Federation, and has been working hard to get the scheme off the ground. There is already one in Scotland.

Thousands of children, he says, get a taste for skiing during school trips but few retain in connection with the organised sport. A schools' association would give them a natural home.

Many teachers have no direct connection with the national federation and a schools' association would be of help to them. It would be of help to them to take advantage of a national coaching scheme now being revised to take account of the fact that the past there has been a number of professional and commercial operators.

Any new organization would cover all aspects of skiing—teaching, coaching, leisure and safety—about which there has been much dissatisfaction.

The growth of skiing and the need for a national schools' association is both obvious and necessary.

Inquiries to Mr G. H. Slea, Regent Centre, Newcastle, NE3 3JZ.

Lifter shines in pentathlon

Like many good class sports specialists Chi Ming Yu, of Heathland School, Hounslow, Greater London, is something of an all-rounder. He is a 22 ft long jumper, but was below that at 21 ft 4½ in to come down the list at the English schools' athletics championships.

But his track and field ability proved an important factor in the victory of the British schools team at the international power pentathlon in Mannheim, West Germany.

He was individual winner of the standing triple jump and the 40 metre sprint. And with Robert Shepherd of St Bernard's School, Bolton, topping the weightlifting

Meanwhile... in Little Rock

Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, the scene of violent resistance to integration in 1957, has been declared an historic landmark in recognition of the school's role in the civil rights movement.

The school is a very different place today than it was 20 years ago, when President Eisenhower sent 2,500 paratroopers and National Guardsmen to escort nine black children to school through mobs of abusive white adults.

Now the school is regarded as a model of race relations. In 1957

it was all-white; today 54 per cent of its 2,100 pupils and 40 per cent of its teaching staff are black. The principal is black and his deputy is white. The school offers a well-attended course in Afro-American literature and also holds an annual black history week.

Leonidas, a student who says the building's outer facade cannot be altered without prior architectural approval. The school, which was established in 1928 as the "most beautiful high school in America," can now get matching Government funds for building improvements.

From the outset the university omitted discrimination: it argued that the Government was constantly urging universities to train more black doctors and lawyers to redress the racial imbalance in the professions and to set a role model for their own communities. But, it said, if the university had admitted only those scoring the highest marks in entrance tests it would never have accepted a single black.

The California Supreme Court disagreed, and said Bakke's constitutional rights under the 14th Amendment to equal treatment under the law had been violated. The university promptly appealed to the Supreme Court.

Much is at stake here. If the court decides in Bakke's favour, there will be an uproar from the black community. The decision will effectively sabotage a massive and increasingly controversial Federal Government programme to help black business, Government and public life to increase their intake of employees from certain minorities—blacks, American Indians, Orientals, Chicanos (Mexican-Americans) and other Hispanic groups.

"Affirmative action" is the practice of giving preference to these groups in employment and public life.

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(FAO) and Lecturer in Physiol. University of Stirling now retired
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LETTERS

Marxism: no sinister force

Sir.—Julius Gould's pamphlet *The Attack on Higher Education: Marxist and Radical Penetration* (Sept 23) sets out to establish that there is a Marxist penetration of our universities, which is undermining the liberal democratic values of scholarly research. Paul Hain's academic identifies intellectual honesty with loyalty to the Marxist movement.

This kind of hackneyed argument seems strangely misplaced when considering the miscellaneous assortment of intellectuals who bear the label "Marxist" in the universities. Any allusion to some sinister Marxist force are ludicrous even Paul Hain's Julius Gould and company know this.

What they really object to is the presence of a theoretical framework that encourages people to link their experiences in the real world with the intellectual ideas developed in the universities. Marxism represents an attempt to explore and explain the interrelationships between material conditions and social and intellectual developments. Indeed Marxist theory encourages a spirit of theoretical and scientific enquiry rather than the dead-end kind of empiricism espoused by Paul Hain.

Hain's own friendly claims: "We academic liberals believe there are facts which can reasonably be regarded as free from such contamination." By this he means freedom from contamination with theory. What is scientific inquiry for, if not for the search for theoretical explanations. Indeed, it is this mindless pursuit of facts that has bogged down so much British sociology and made Marxism such an appealing alternative.

Michael Young's attack on Julius Gould's report provides some information particularly on the right-wing political penetration of the Institute for the Study of Conflict which sponsored the pamphlet. It is also interesting that in drawing comparisons between the McCarthy period in America and the present time, he describes her own experiences during the McCarthy purges.

One point which she forcefully makes is that the real target of McCarthyism was not so much the communists, whose influence they grossly exaggerated, but rather Roosevelt's New Dealers, those liberals who supported the pre-war measures to reduce unemployment and control the economic system.

Such experiences should be very of the real nature of the "Unacademic Activities" committee.

Finally, Michael Young's important question: Why does Julius Gould and his study receive such publicity? *The Times Educational Supplement* will publish an editorial on this front page next week.

It is interesting to note that the explanation he offers for the response for *The Times* newspaper empire is "cultural and ideological bias". To state I have not entered into the discussion because since my present school became comprehensive in 1974, by the amalgamation of the second highest non-ecclesiastical grammar school in Wales, founded in 1565, with the local secondary school, few of my pupils have opted to apply for Oxbridge places.

However, after reading a recent article in *The Times Educational Supplement*, which was a positive response from schools such as mine, I encouraged one of my students to submit an application. In the opinion of the staff this was a strong candidate, having gained 10 O levels, nine Grade A and one Grade B, and it was confidently predicted at the time of application that this pupil would gain three places at Advanced level (French, German, Mathematics) and a distinction in the Special Paper (French) a prediction which proved to be completely accurate. There is little doubt that this particular pupil has tremendous potential and is, indeed, a born scholar.

In common with many schools, particularly in rural areas, we do not have a third year sixth form, so the college entrance exams were taken while the student was at the beginning of the sixth form, and based solely upon the results of that exam, this candidate was selected simply because of its relevance to some specific end, we usually call it "training". But I have never been opposed to vocational education. How could I be, having spent the past 15 years in an institute of education? What I have been opposed to, and still am, is starting vocational training or education too early, which may well prematurely determine who shall be the modern equivalents of hewers of wood and drawers of water.

A purely instrumental attitude to work is harmful under the same name of which the worker works to purely for the cash or the learner for some purely extrinsic end, such as the avoidance of punishment, prizes, approval, or just passing the examination—part of what Marx meant by "alienation".

Group and individual work—through the use of work cards prepared in considerable detail by the teachers—forms the basis of the teaching. The teacher's role, apart from oral activity, is chiefly that of organizer and evaluator of learning since it is assumed that the work cards will carry the bulk of the instruction. In this school there is definite recognition of the variation in abilities and an attempt to provide for it.

Mr Horeley rightly points to an opponent declining in exam performance. The blame does not rest solely with the universities. M. A. BATHCLOR, Deputy head, Darford Poulstone High School, Buryfield, Bury.

Defending our traditions

Sir.—Michael Young describes Professor Gould's special ISCE report as "ultra-right wing". The label is of course false, but the important thing is that it is completely irrelevant.

The approach of the Institute for the Study of Conflict is freedom of inquiry and the defence of the freedom to inquire. This freedom is threatened by the Marxists and Marxist-Leninists whose methods and actions Professor Gould examined. It would be equally threatened by any equally successful attempt to bring this country's institutions under the control of the Marxists. In common with each other than either the liberal traditions of the United Kingdom. To stand idly by and proclaim that nothing is happening is to help those whose activities, if unchallenged, would lead this country in the direction of the Soviet Union or Cambodia.

Why else should we be troubled to a rebuttal of the content of arguments of an eminent and crude assertion that won't stand up to the scrutiny? Why, especially, does so many of the tenets of Marxism? A small number of adjusting for inflation would raise its peak to 300 points below its highest for 20 years.

Perhaps the greatest puzzle about academic Marxism is why they should so often be allowed to get away with shoddy work. The authors in *Capitalism and Schooling* are not alone in their arguments; other economists also erect analyses that are, either through ignorance or ideological bias, simply false. Needless to say, it is an Open University set book.

Faculty of Education, Birmingham University.

line" Marxists and those who apply Marxist concepts to intellectual and flexible but in a critical and Or he might have countered the ready assumption that anyone who uses Marxist ideas is intent on subverting the existing social order. The fact that he did neither of these things can only enhance fears that those who maintain that the distinctions are not worth making are right.

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Sir.—Paul Hain's (Sept 23) article goes that no Marxist-Leninist has ever criticised the bourgeoisie and totalitarianism in Russia and Eastern Europe. A visit to any library, bookshop would immediately give the lie to that assertion. It is a common one that "academic Marxism" is a form of "bourgeoisism" or "socialism" as come across any of the many works of Leon Trotsky and his followers on this subject.

The *Times* recently gave a lead article to a Marxist newspaper, *The Militant*, which has a long record of opposition to the rights of democratic rights in the USSR and has waged a struggle for the overthrow of Stalinism.

Both Professor Hain and Professor Gould share to put it like a somewhat cavalier attitude towards politics and history. To put together all their opponents, including those with the most serious criticisms, the Moscow Central Committee by Stalin, by the hounding and butchering of its members, as I do not know who is more concerned, "Labourism" dismissed in Gould's report.

The Gould report substitutes abuse and name-mongering for reasoned argument. The "gun" of Leninism and Stalinism which he attempts is a cheap unworthy labelling trick.

DEREK McILLAN, 19 Byrnes Croft, London.

Dare teachers speak out?

Sir.—There would seem to be quite a considerable gap all too often between what teachers are supposed to be thinking about education in mass and what they actually think as individuals. Opinion polls are most likely to pick up the latter usually claim to be representing the ideas of their members as a group.

Unfortunately this is increasingly the case of striking in groups; and the opinion of the individual teacher can be all too often overlooked or ignored as misinformed, unduly active or out of touch while official or official of some union or association, can pontificate endlessly through the media—recalling to the public official everything in the educational garden is lovely!

Every revolution ends up by establishing a new conservative orthodoxy and we seem to have reached this stage in matters educational in this country at the moment. To question the validity of the non-selective revolution, for example, is sheer heresy; an unforgivable kind—that is, if you are an ambitious teacher with an open-mindedness for conformity and essential, at least in public

(although you can slip your own offspring into an independent school on the quiet).

Many teachers undoubtedly lament the destruction of so many grammar schools and efficient secondary modern schools; and are suspicious of the current mania for mixed ability teaching; and most teachers, if they are honest, are uneasily aware that somehow or other, standards are slipping. These are honestly held and widespread opinions, but it would be a brave pedagogue who went out of his way to voice such criticisms too freely abroad—that is, if he wished to prosper in the state system.

For those who do want to indicate their disapproval of the way education is going, the choice lies between leaving the profession and becoming the equivalent of a non-person, educationally speaking, or a dependent sector where the salaries may be less at times but at least some independence of mind is allowable. It is a sad commentary on our so-called democracy that things have reached this stage, where conformity is the rule, even at the expense of freedom of thought.

J. H. C. LOCKHART, 21b Kings Avenue, London.

Voting blind?

Sir.—Political illiteracy has been arousing a good deal of concern lately. In your column which may be of interest to readers. My source is a survey of 1,000 first-year students at the Colleges of Education in Higher Education. The survey have been asked to report on the sixth-form experience under various headings of which are:

Forty-three per cent of the survey in the sample to date have indicated they received no education politics during their last two years at school. A similar survey conducted 25 years ago revealed a return of 42 per cent. This is not the surprising conclusion which should be drawn, namely, that there has been little, or no, change in the sixth form over the past quarter of a century in spite of the fact that the voting age has been lowered to 18.

JAMES HEMMING, 41 From Water, Reddington, Middlesex.

Letters for publication should be sent by Tuesday morning at the latest. They should be as short as possible and should be written in the first person. The editor reserves the right to cut or amend them if necessary.

LETTERS

Breaking into Oxbridge

Sir.—It has been argued that there is discrimination against candidates from comprehensive schools when they make application for admission to Oxbridge colleges. A point of view which has been refuted by some influential administrators. In fact, some admission tutors have specifically stated that they are disappointed with the response for Oxbridge places from the non-selective sector of secondary education.

To state I have not entered into the discussion because since my present school became comprehensive in 1974, by the amalgamation of the second highest non-ecclesiastical grammar school in Wales, founded in 1565, with the local secondary school, few of my pupils have opted to apply for Oxbridge places.

However, after reading a recent article in *The Times Educational Supplement*, which was a positive response from schools such as mine, I encouraged one of my students to submit an application. In the opinion of the staff this was a strong candidate, having gained 10 O levels, nine Grade A and one Grade B, and it was confidently predicted at the time of application that this pupil would gain three places at Advanced level (French, German, Mathematics) and a distinction in the Special Paper (French) a prediction which proved to be completely accurate. There is little doubt that this particular pupil has tremendous potential and is, indeed, a born scholar.

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Mr Horeley rightly points to an opponent declining in exam performance. The blame does not rest solely with the universities. M. A. BATHCLOR, Deputy head, Darford Poulstone High School, Buryfield, Bury.

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LETTERS

The positive side of mixed ability

Sir.—If it were not for the harm done by such an agent of denigration as your contributor Paul McGill ("Mixed Ability Plops in Ulster Classes", August 30) I would be happy to leave him to spread the alarm and despondency which seems to be the raison-d'être of so many "reporters" nowadays. (Every-one wants to put the boot in.)

Your readers, after reading Mr McGill's piece in the *Times*, report on the Survey of Mixed Ability Organization and Teaching, will be astonished to learn that the report also contains the following comments:

"Most staff were satisfied that the social climate in the schools had improved as a result of the introduction of mixed ability grouping. They referred to improvements not only in pupil attitude but also in discipline and in teacher expectations. Teachers no longer dread being allocated the lower ability classes, nor is there the problem of poor motivation on the part of the pupils. In terms of the schools' objectives and in teacher expectations, a reduction in the creation of a positive attitude to school, the introduction of mixed ability grouping can be considered to be successful."

"The lively level of department has indicated the collecting of materials to supplement those provided by the Schools Curriculum Project with which the school has been essential. Consideration has been given to pupils' interests and these have been stimulated through reading, discussion, dramatic activities and the use of broadcast materials. The cooperation between the English and remedial departments is encouraging, but this needs to be developed along clearly defined lines."

"There is a clearly defined set of objectives within the departmental scheme of work, and several teachers have prepared a wide range of materials for the pupils. There is evidence that in class discussion and in group work the range of abilities is being provided for. The attracting of different activities within the class allows a much greater measure of teacher intervention than was in the development of skills of reading and writing."

"The teachers have given attention to, and have achieved encouraging results in, the presentation and use of materials relevant to all pupils in the classes. Group, individual and class teaching all play their part, and the pupils' learning is directly related to the objectives set by the teachers. Problems are dealt with as they arise and usually on an individual basis. Some enterprising and effective teaching was observed in each of these schools."

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Despite passionate local protests, an increasing number of small schools are either closing or are threatened with closure. Is this process inevitable, or can something still be done?

Eric Midwinter suggests that any group of parents, teachers and others in a community who want to keep their local school should be given a fair share of public funds in order to do so

So here we are at the beginning of another year, with all the schools opening after the summer break. But I am concerned of the moment with those schools that will not be opening up again. Over the last months there has been a sudden spurt of school closures, and, in June, the Department of Education and Science, in its circular on this topic, urged local authorities, after, admittedly, due consideration, to be "resolute" in this regard. Hundreds of schools—some in rural districts, others in rundown urban areas—have been closed or are threatened with closure.

In many such instances a group of parents and their children, frequently their teacher or teachers, and almost always the rest of the community, feel dispossessed. It is not unlike the enclosure movement of early modern history when, in the same interest of rationalization, even of progress, the cult of the larger entity was entertained.

The small school with a declining roll is not, we are told, a "viable unit", and this is usually pressed upon us in two ways. First, it is uneconomic, and financial figures are peddled to show that a saving of so many thousands could be wrought by a closure. (Little is said of the false economy of forcing parents and children to use a school they do not wish to.)

Second, it is educationally unsound—a one-teacher school cannot give children a wide enough range of activity and input and the one teacher might be difficult to replace. And much more in the same vein.

By relating the two issues it is possible to make a sturdy composite proposal to close. It is an educational Morton's Fork. If the school has too few children, it is too extravagant to maintain; if the school has too few teachers, it is too educationally restrictive to maintain. Let us take the arguments separately for a paragraph or two, beginning with the latter.

In the present state of our knowledge about what constitutes a "good" school, it is arguable that any case in special pleading, and in the event, the local authority view (blessed by the need to save money in general) is no better, if no

worse, than the local parent's view (biased by the wish to preserve one school in particular).

Having examined several of the cases prepared by groups of parents, community associations and so on, one cannot but be impressed by the fervent energy as well as the competent appraisal and, on occasion, vivid presentation by which these are characterized. It is, I confess, an action of social action in this country excites more reaction than on opening (motorway, hospital for the criminally insane, gas works) it is a closing (hospital, old world house, railway line).

But one should not look the gift horse of political engagement in the mouth. If parents, pupils and teachers do feel as passionately as all that and are prepared to take on the (full-time) might of the local authority, it is little short of an argument in itself in their favour. We eschew at our peril any sign of popular commitment to our present day social agencies.

Here are people who want their children to go to the local village school or the inner city school for which their families have built up a loyalty, and for which they feel some affection. They frequently have limited facilities, but a larger more distant school, with more extensive amenities. Who is to gild them?

Their case is not so empty of scholarly content. There are many educationalists ready to stand surety to that view. In his studies of site location (for instance, "Psychology and Architectural Determinism", *The Architects' Journal Information Library* (No. 22 Sept 71) and "On the Relations Between the School Journey, Rural Infant and Emotional Adjustment in of Educational Psychology", *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, vol. XXVII (1957), Terence Lea suggests a relationship between long journeys and maladjustment, concluding that material separation, rather than "family difference" or fatigue, is the explanation. "In particular," he argues, "it is concluded that the effect of school journeys be studied through the child's perception of his mother's accessibility, a

variable linking maternal separation with maternal deprivation". There are other academics ready to support the more homely claims of parents unwilling to watch their children attend schools out of reach of the child's normal environment.

Beyond that there is the social context of the school, its place as the heart of its neighbourhood, very often as the successor to the church as a social hub. Quite simply, a community without a school attracts few, perhaps no, young people, and thus dies down dead.

Some American sociologists are prepared to define "neighbourhood" now in terms of the primary school's natural catchment area. Albert Whelan used to sing of the man about to be hanged in the calaboose whose last words were "It's certainly taught me a lesson, and I'll never do it again". There is the same finality about a school closure.

Many of us happen to approve of small schools, but I hope we would be generous enough to back parents who craved for big schools. We are asking for some more generous account to be taken of parental and communal choice, and far a little more sensitivity to consumer wishes.

Granted that, let us examine, in its own right, the economic angle. Here I would like to propose a simple formula, the "fishshare formula". To operate a small school of high cost means that some of their fair share of the available resources. That is not denied. But what about their fair share? They are generally entitled to that.

My proposal is, put briefly, that a group of parents, teachers and others in the community who have demonstrated a willfulness and ability to establish their share of public funds. What they might do is to constitute themselves into some form of trust or association, perhaps registering under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, in order to sustain the school.

What I would then like to contemplate is a great paid annually from the local authority to that trust based on the local average expenditure. Cambridge-shire is an area in which there are

schools with whom I have pondered lately on this issue. The Chartered Institute of Finance and Accounting records for 1974-75, Cambridge, expenditure on each pupil was £280. If a school which wanted to close had, say, 50 pupils, the group together with an area of 50 x 280—£14,000.

It would, of course, be adjusted by year. It would not be enough to run the school; the ability to make good the loss rest with the parent-teacher or community group to raise the bulk of the funds as best they can.

The beauty of the scheme is that it justly shares the burden. The parent-teacher group, in effect, takes on what, nationally, you see anyway to spend on our children. The local authority, in effect, is here you are, and, in effect, to make such a fuss about it, to raise the rest.

I have taken one or two opinions on this matter. I would seem that the local authority has discretion to make such grants. It is necessary for such a school to be "efficient" under the terms of the 1944 Act, and one of the school's activities which did not count for example, participation in the school's football league or local exhibition or museum.

The local authority should regulate school requests—local inspection for the activity of the school. A general plan would be for the school to enjoy a practical working relationship with the local education authority. The unfortunate point is that schools can only fall into two categories. Like soldiers in a trench, either in or out of brackets; they are either independent or they are allied with gradations of aid controlled. This is an obstacle, authorities, very fairly, refuse to

towards independent schools. The unhelpful aspect is that, originally, the local authority identified independent with fee-paying schools. I certainly do not quibble with an L.A.'s refusal to support these on the grounds of their alleged and exclusive status.

One would expect such schools to demonstrate their role as community focus, and probable funds would be raised in this manner, as the school extended its scope to include all manner of social and public activities. It could, for example, offer lodging not only to the local clubs and societies, but to the visiting clinic or library. The school would even more fruitfully become the "medieval church" of its district.

Such an open-ended and flexible approach would give succour to many schools and as many areas, inner city as

the same third option has evolved in housing, where, between the public and municipal controlled housing estate and the owner-occupied state, the collective agency of the housing association has intervened.

One would expect such schools to demonstrate their role as community focus, and probable funds would be raised in this manner, as the school extended its scope to include all manner of social and public activities. It could, for example, offer lodging not only to the local clubs and societies, but to the visiting clinic or library. The school would even more fruitfully become the "medieval church" of its district.

Such an open-ended and flexible approach would give succour to many schools and as many areas, inner city as

well as rural. It might be the answer in the provision of schools like the White Elm School in London which is refused help because, technically, it is "independent" but which is manifestly the reverse of independent in the fee-paying sense.

It might also be the answer for the pre-school centres and activities which are developing all over the country. They are not and do not want to be nursery classes; they are more than children's groups, exercises both in adult and pre-school education, and thereby not open to conventional public support. The formula of the "fair shares" grant could be applied.

Whatever the formula used, the education service, so often monolithic and remote, must soon face the prospect of

meeting the requirements of people much more eager to participate in small scale enterprises in fields which crucially affect the lives of their families. The mood is increasingly apparent across society, whether it be in housing, shopping, transport domestic appliances and repairs, or education.

Many people want to have a say, and more people want to control their own day-to-day activities. The modern state has to ponder the truth which many old time socialist thinkers poetically taught: the opposite of state control is not necessarily private enterprise; it can also be decentralized public endeavour.

Eric Midwinter is head of the National Consumer Council's Public Affairs Unit, and chairman of the Advisory Centre for Education.



Where less than thirty are gathered together... the children and teachers of a Sussex village school, which, despite a campaign to keep it open, was forced to close at the end of last term.

Retreat into dreariness

The debate about standards seems already to have narrowed the focus of English teaching. Philip Payne outlines ways in which teachers might counter the charge of English being a soft option

It would be pleasant to think that the current stress on standards would have only an improving effect upon school work, so that what was good will now be even better, and what was bad will at least achieve the glimmerings of mediocrity.

For a subject like English, however, which is concerned both with the necessary skills of the working world and with the imaginative development of the child through literature and language, the consequences may not be so happy. Certainly, experienced teachers have expressed their concern that external pressures are tending to narrow down the practice of English, producing a short focus on skills and a neglect of other aspects of English—poetry, drama, extended writing which for better or worse have been labelled creative.

This is not simply because the word "standards" has suddenly leapt into fashion. Behind it lie a number of complex issues, not least economic factors of unemployment and a decline in living standards. As long as children leave school and cannot find jobs there is bound to be particular concern that schools should give pupils every opportunity in the labour market; and that for many people means concentration upon literacy rather than what appear to be frills.

The decline in material prosperity has been marginal, but the resultant drop in book allowances has often hit English quite hard, making it difficult to justify,

say the purchase of additional books or novels for private reading and time when a set of language textbooks, replete with exercises, may seem more acceptable and safer.

Anything which is not evidently functional has indeed a distinctly "unsoft" appearance; and "creativity" has become an inverted bandwagon word (regarding up, creativity down) to be tutted at. What is needed, we are told, is a return to a more primitive vigour after the lax, free-wheeling 'sixties and 'seventies.

To quote from a recent book: "There is a school of thought which... says something like this: Let us reach a more conservative style. There is too much imaginative work being set in the English lesson and logical thought... and yet, not such a recent book after all, for this fact comes from Merlestone's *Hound's Spirit*, first published in 1949.

This conclusion is obvious: if we are looking for something to blame for a supposed decline in literacy we would be mistaken in taking as the culprit an unprecedented outburst of creativity in the past 20 years.

They will argue the reverse. They will argue that the processes of learning are not necessarily harnessed to a sufficient extent, we would say, to include the inculcation of discipline. But this is not easy, and it is not necessary to say that some creative work is not justified in the name of discipline, and has not been an integral part of the curriculum since the time of the ancients. Drama has taken its place in the curriculum, becoming much more than the valuable end in itself.

Thus the debate on creativity is not with sufficient bad practice, but with opponents effective debating skills. At least, meanwhile, and all the time, the sale of textbooks continues to be a considerable effect, with many school bookshops established, and time spent with only a residual sense of guilt in the port of conscientious teachers, to be read in lesson time. In the classrooms what one might call "literate informality" has led both to learning and a real joy in the creative possibilities of English.

A handful, of course, are rather than they used to be, and offer opportunities for imaginative work. Some of the ideas work, but too often are stillborn; for the simple reason that they are written for a vast and diverse group of children, not for a particular time.

What this amounts to at the very least is a bridgehead from which to make effective advances in the teaching of English, and the last thing needed is some kind of irrational retreat into unambitious dreariness.

Our society's present concern and anxieties should evoke a measured response, offering reassurance and, above all, information. This may well lead to modifications in present practice, with English teachers working out for themselves more thoroughly and in more detail what objectives really are.

Take creative writing as an example. Too often this is narrowly conceived of as predominantly fantasy or pure fiction, whereas once the child moulds language for the purpose of communication the creative element is by definition there. Marjorie Hourd again: "To write convincingly about making a bed one must certainly use imagination... in order to relate the process to the object used in it, and a sequence of actions to the purpose and method of the performer."

In scope, creative writing should range from prosaic accounts of ordinary events,

through descriptions with a strong element of personal knowledge and involvement, to (vary occasionally) pure fiction.

In the end, one is concerned in the development of a discipline; one which is intrinsic rather than imposed, because children should write effectively without making a sustained effort, especially if one looks for steady development in their writing rather than the occasional one-off success.

Teaching the skills than falls into place, simply because they are needed for effective communication; and instruction in this respect goes on all the time.

Additionally, it is probably useful for the English department to draw up a check list of the skills which children of varying abilities will, at a given age, be expected to master. The list will be a working document rather than a statement of principles, made available for others to see.

On this issue it is not inappropriate to point out that defects of literacy are results not so much of don't care teaching as of factors outside school, including the cultural dominance of television and the popularity of such extrapolations of

Sun. What is true of personal writing is true of every aspect of the full English curriculum. They are not mysterious to be respected by the cognoscenti and misunderstood by every one else, but aspects of teaching which show development as the child grows older and in which performance can be assessed.

If this is going to happen it is vital that English teachers should regularly talk about their work to each other, so that techniques can be improved and a consensus reached as to what quality and progress really are. This is a good deal more difficult than the application of a series of hard-and-fast rules, which may tend to limit progress to some universal norm; good English teaching, being adventurous, will always go beyond this.

Teachers are then in a position to explain to parents and others what they are trying to do, pointing out that English, with all its richness, is not a soft option but a liberal discipline. At a time when language and sensitivity to language are under attack, nothing is more worth defending.

Philip Payne is senior inspector for English in Essex. He is writing here in a personal capacity.

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Criminals watch television. Many crime programmes are shown. Therefore crime programmes cause criminal behaviour. Or do they? Harold Mendelsohn looks at the relationship between violence and mass communication.

Fuel to the fire

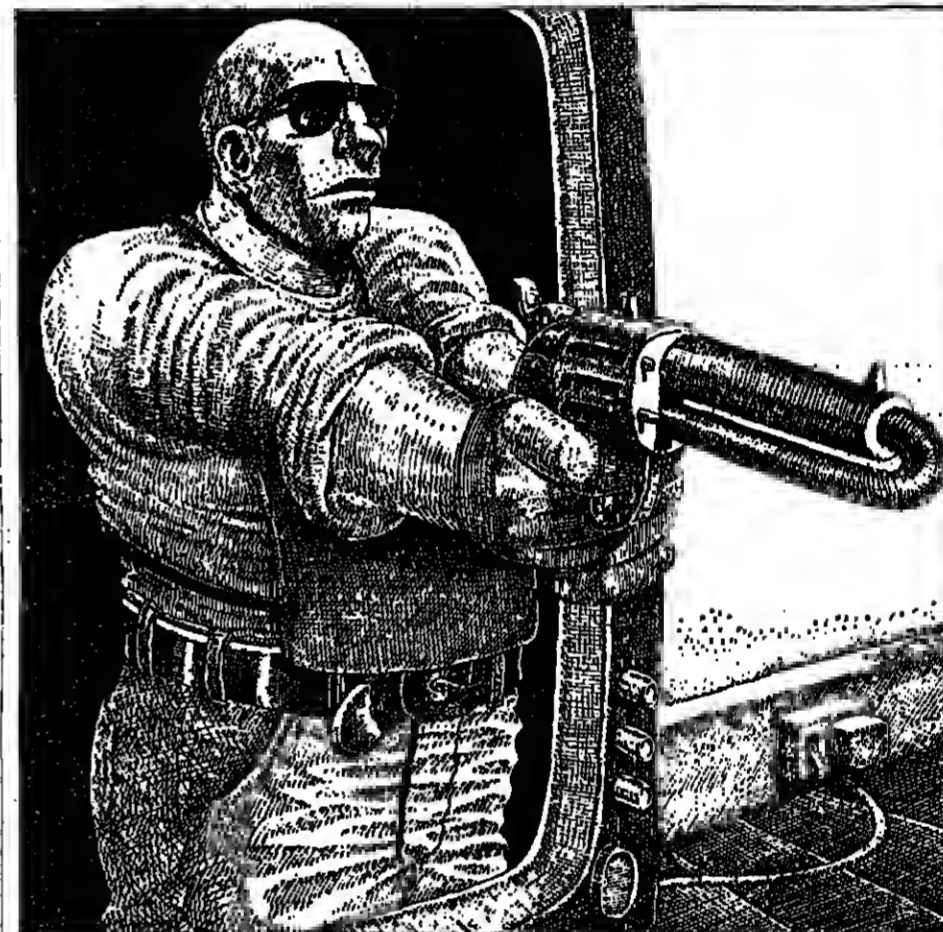


Illustration by Peter Hill

When confronted with the inevitability of controlling unruly youth, Plato would ban the diversionary poets from his ideal state. Pascal would do away with any entertaining distraction that might lure the less than thoroughly pious from the unrelenting pursuit of salvation. Eighteenth-century English social reformers would shut down evil-breeding lending libraries as a means for keeping secular reading from contaminating the innocent. And so disparate a pride of nineteenth and early twentieth-century social critics as Marx, Tarde, Le Bon and Ortega y Gasset would rescue mankind from certain political hell by either banning, suppressing or censoring what they considered to be manipulative media of communication.

Through the centuries concern about the possible effects of means of communication have been more ideological than scientifically empirical. Because they eventually touch everyone the communications have always served as handy rationalizations for society's inability to prevent deviance. When we try to "explain" such complex behaviour today as juvenile delinquency, rape, robbery, and murder as being caused by comic books, cinematic films or television we play exactly the same game. In our inability to explain and thereby control misbehaviour we seek out any common sense singular "causes" in order to dull the sharp edge of our frustration. Criminals watch television, don't they? There are many crime programmes available to receivers. Undoubtedly such programmes cause criminal behaviour. This is part of a familiar catechism which is reflective more of folk knowledge than of science.

Not only is the poet hoc ergo propter hoc syllogism faulty here, but the alleged causal explanation cannot be sustained by social science. Singular causal explanation for complex behaviour went out with the bustle. Moreover, contemporary empiricists of the functionalist school have been coming up with an image of man that is strikingly different from that proposed by the ancients. It is man, they insist, who is strong, while the media are weak. Thus, when it has been fashionable for centuries to consider mass communication content as acting as a sort of hypodermic needle that is injected directly into the individual, contemporary functionalist researchers consider media content to act like an aerosol spray. Most of it never even reaches the target; a lot of it simply evaporates into the air; very little penetrates.

Science requires far more than random observations of several phenomena seemingly relating to each other in sequence. Consider for a minute common sense. It is not a matter of view. It is a matter of perspective. From a common sense perspective the whole of view is, perhaps relatively easy to explain why this person is eating. He eats because he is hungry—period. Maybe so. But suppose we press on. We then discover that our subject had merely forgotten that the "party" he had been invited to was in fact a dinner party. Mistakenly he sat at a table, fully fortified himself with a rather substantial meal before setting out for the evening. Yet, at the point of observation he is seen to be eating, although not.

Now we must alter our analytic strategy. We must fit our added knowledge about the subject, not into the mould of physiology, but into another quite different one of sociology. Our interpretation no longer is one requiring a state of prior hunger. Now we must say that this man eats not because he is hungry but because he does not wish to precipitate a social embarrassment in rejecting his host's offerings. Just as our interpretations take on radically different aspects as we dig deeper into even what appears to be the simplest kinds of human behaviour, so must we make certain that our policy recommendations—particularly based on empirical evidence—are indeed true to all the facts that pertain to a given observa-

tion. To this date no recommendations regarding the censorship of mass media content can be held to have so solid, comprehensive and outright a social science factual base.

In science, before causality can be attributed to any one factor it is necessary to account for literally all—not some—of the possible other factors that may be causal as well. Despite numerous attempts to isolate television, as a direct cause of misbehaviour, the tools of current social science are such that the researcher is nearly impossible, at this time, to think of some of the possible causes of misbehaviour—bad nutrition, a drab and non-stimulating life, neuroticism, coming from a broken family, cruel parents, inadequate housing, uncaring teachers, brain damage, bad friends, punitive religious leaders, loneliness, physical handicap. All readily come to mind, and each one of us can add to the list our own pet hypothesis. Consider, then, the monumental task facing the researcher should he attempt to isolate exposure to television alone within the context of all such factors. From the start failure here is all but assured.

Let us turn to the highly publicized recent study of adolescent males that was conducted by Dr. William Baisohn and his associates (given at the British Association for the Advancement of Science on September 16) as illustrative of the truly difficult problems researchers in mass communications encounter. In particular, the Baisohn investigation runs afoul in the two critical areas of definition and causal interpretation of correlation. What actually is violent content? Does it refer to gross physical acts such as punching, kicking, shouting and the like? Or does it encompass more subtle acts of a more pernicious nature such as ridicule, hostility,

conscious withholding of attention and loud verbal abuse, ostracism, threat, and conspiracy—none of which are expressed in physical terms? Who is the more "violent"—the person who is seen to pull the trigger or the one behind the scenes who conspired to make him do so? Is exposure to any dramatized shooting equal to receiving a documentary on Hitler plotting to destroy Western civilization?

With regard to exposure, how much is enough and how much is too much? Is exposure to five shootings over 90 minutes equal to exposure to 50 shootings over nine months? How much attention must the receiver pay to specific content before he pronounces him "exposed" and how much of that content must the viewer comprehend and "take in"?

Precisely what sort of acts must viewers perform, and after how long a time has elapsed, before they can be certified as victims of effect? Must the exact same behaviour as portrayed be repeated by viewers or will any sort of aggressive behaviour, no so long as it resembles "violence"? And when should these acts take place—10 minutes, 10 days or 10 years following exposure?

In the Baisohn study there is considerable ambiguity about violent content exposure, and effect in terms of definition. Violent content was judged to be so in physical terms only by middle-class teachers employed by the research team. Exposure was ascertained by asking boys to recall whether they had even watched certain types of programmes—not actual individual sightings of specific programmes—over no less than a 12-year period. And the violent acts committed by the boys who confessed to Bel-

son's interviewers either may or may not ever have been portrayed by the types of programmes allegedly seen by the subjects studied. The report gives us no clue.

Most vexing in mass communications research is the confusion regarding correlation versus causation. Suppose we find that phenomenon B—high property damage is related to phenomenon A—the amount of equipment fighting a fire. It would be absurd to conclude that more pieces of fire fighting equipment there are at a fire, the more property damage there will be. In actuality a third factor X—a serious fire—is responsible for both A and B. Thus the more serious the fire the more equipment will be used and the greater will be the amount of property damage.

How many such X factors are responsible for both high exposure to physically aggressive fare on television and misbehaviour in simply do not know at this time. And the Baisohn study in line with all its predecessors' remains fails to enlighten us.

In a way, this most recent research effort represents a throw-back to the pseudo-science exposure-cause-effect model first proposed in Aristotle's *Rhetoric*. Despite disclaimers to do so, such things, Dr. Baisohn does indeed strongly suggest that exposure to televised portrayals of violence causes boys to commit acts of serious violence. As a remedy he categorically prescribes the age-old cures of censorship and banishment. Not only is there confusion regarding correlation and causation here, but the study actually suggests that some correlations—particularly when they relate to television negatively—are actually more strongly causative than others.

As a consequence, these contradictory findings are dismissed with no more than a flimsy gesture: the exposure to newspapers, comic books and films correlated positively with violent behaviour; that boys who allegedly received the largest amount of violence were most likely to commit serious acts of violence. But although exposure correlates positively with the alleged commission of serious violent acts, it does not correlate with the expression of anti-social attitudes or values among the very perpetrators of those acts.

So where are we today on this matter of television and violence? About all we have from the Baisohn study is evidence of a rather low-level correlation, non-causal in nature, between exposure and misbehaviour among a very small proportion of psychologically and socially maladjusted teenage boys. This finding is more important in that it is consistent with previous research conducted under the aegis of the United States Surgeon General's Scientific Advisory Committee on Television, Violence and Social Behaviour. In each instance research has indicated that for the vast majority of children of all ages, television appears to play a relatively unimportant role in their socialization.

The quest for us to one causal linkages between media exposure alone and behaviour appears to be frustratingly Quixotic. Should we not rather be concentrating our scientific endeavour in determining precisely how the child develops and matures into responsible adulthood? In particular for more research effort is required in determining the effects of the risks and dangers that children are exposed to from less than perfect formative institutions, such as family, neighbourhood, school, church, and government. I strangely suspect that the true causal cues to children's misbehaviour lie here, and not in whether they happened to watch a few episodes of *Guns and Smokes* 12 or so years ago.

Harold Mendelsohn is professor and chairman of the Department of Mass Communications, University of Denver.

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Children's literature

Birds for all ages

Audrey Laski

The Peacock is a curious bird: or perhaps the problem lies with the Puffin. At all events, I find myself baffled sometimes as to why she has been drawn here or here between adolescent and children's fiction.

Some books do clearly belong to the early teens, combining a youthful protagonist, simplicity of diction, and a moral problem...

A 15-year-old might be wry of Eight Days of Lake, by Diana Wynne Jones (Puffin 50p) because the hero is a little younger...

Mind that child

Children and Traffic: 1. On the Pavement. 2. The Young Traveller. 3. Preparing for the Road.

The teacher who has stood, as I have, at the graveside of one of his pupils, killed by a car outside his home, needs little convincing about the need for proper training in road traffic skills.

Evidently, however, living with traffic requires a wide variety of sophisticated skills, and the learning of general admonitions in assemblies, or talk by the police is not enough.

These three books by Ken Jolly, which are out of the Road Safety Education Centre, sponsored by Reading University, by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory are most welcome.

Differentiation

Calculi for the Social Sciences. By A. W. Goodman. Holt Saunders £10.75, 7216 4162 8.

Just about halfway through the 450 pages of this substantial text comes a major section of applications to the social sciences.

Definitions

Illustrated Dictionary of Biology for First Examination (second edition). By M. A. Swift and Malcolm Thompson.

It is irritating when seeking the meaning of a term to be forced into looking up three or four other references to make the original definition clear.

22 Books/Maths/Traffic

Gifts. Books for younger still are less concerned with life, though some with the adventures of the Gung, by H. J. Press (50p), translated from the story form. Another for the story form. Another for the story form.

While for Willie, by Kate (Picture Puffin 50p), published in 1964 and by hope, a classic. It is the magic of everyday life.

Our stereotype migrant is the unreluctant, suspect immigrant, the alien in our midst. He is either Pakistani or West Indian, he is conveniently coloured to assist identification.

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Write for inspection copies to: University Tutorial Press Ltd, Bateman Street, Cambridge, CB2 1NG

23 Resources



Mass movements

TONY HOWARTH on migration

India was not packed with Old Britain. The Irish were there in force, and the last section of the book provides a good link with The Irish in Liverpool, an excellent account of the mid-century surge of emigration from the famine-stricken island.

Our stereotype migrant is the unreluctant, suspect immigrant, the alien in our midst. He is either Pakistani or West Indian, he is conveniently coloured to assist identification.

The teacher's guide offers considerable help to people who want to know more about concepts of migration, and the case-studies of migration which make up the core of the unit will serve as excellent models for teachers who wish to discuss their own materials on movements from, into and within their societies at different periods of time.

Headlines from the Daily Mail, which is reprinted as part of the series called The War Papers, published by Marshall Cavendish Partworks Ltd. The series which covers 10 weekly parts has been going a year.

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Other speakers included R. D. Ling, Ulan Hladun, Mark Bahren, Barbara Tizard, Tom Siska, Frank Hargrove, P. H. Vincent Inyang Khan, John and Elizabeth Newson, Sir Allan Hardy.

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24 Resources

A defence on two fronts

NIGEL RICHARDSON on a general studies course based on film material

Sixth form general studies tends to suffer attacks on two distinct fronts. Despite the fact that it is very hard to teach well, its teacher allocations and book allowances are the first to be purged in times of tight budgets. At the same time, pupils inevitably regard it as a break from formal academic work and therefore not to be given ideas above its station.

One solution to both attacks is to place a team teaching course based on film material. Even allowing for hire costs, some saving can be made, because large numbers of resource teachers for other work once they themselves have seen the films in the initial year—provided, of course, that much of the material is repeated. And such a course is distinctively different from most A level work, providing genuine variety and raising the idea of having to compare for pupil commitment. In a school with a reasonably large sixth form, the A level year is probably the ideal time for such a course. Here it can both compensate for subjects given up earlier in the school, and can provide discussion and writing practice for those interviews and general papers to come.

Ideally, one needs one session in the week of up to two hours when everyone can come together. This enables a full length film to be shown from time to time or alternatively there can be a debate or lecture. Variety of presentation is important; it is a good idea to mix documentary and feature films with study extracts, to use slides and illustrations and to let a large audience see as many different presenters and lecturers as possible.

For one or two other periods in the week, pupils can then be divided into sets. Teachers in the sets should be encouraged to make notes on the films so that they can raise specific discussion points. It is also a great help if the leader of the team can provide each pupil with a pamphlet of relevant facts and each teacher with a file of notes and data for use in those periods. The BBC publication Britain 1976 and Social Trends is particularly useful; much other good information can be gained from the (now sadly discontinued) Sunday Times current affairs filmstrips which many schools already possess. Colour supplements and newspapers in general provide a wealth of information for someone prepared to wade the cuttings for a few minutes each week—by your filing system must be good, and the files must be ruthlessly weeded out every few months.

Armed with some catalogues, it is then time to choose your projects, probably a series of topics which would last about three weeks. The Rank, EMI, Columbia, and EMI catalogues provide a wealth of material; the BBC and Concord Film Council collections are invaluable. The National Council for Audio-Visual Aids in Education produces a film for general studies called The British Film Institute which details the films in its full catalogue of archive and extract.

Few sixth-formers have more than a superficial knowledge of what Marx really believed or how capitalism came to Russia and what the Russian Revolution was all about. BBC produces excellent series on these topics, and the BBC's 1977 series, although billed for 14 to 16 years, can be very good. The same can be said for the BBC's series on the Chinese economy 1900-49, and Concord's series on China is an extremely good description of Mao's work since then.

The twin topics of advertising and censorship raise important questions about competition and "free speech". The Sunday Times "Advertising" and "Posters" filmstrips are very useful here, and other films produce similar material. John Berger's BBC film "The Language of Advertising in the Ways of Seeing" series is outstanding. Students can also be given 20 or so full page newspaper advertisements to judge for impact, layout, slogan and so forth. For censorship, an older audience can be



From 'Edna the Inebriate Woman'.

shown a film like Agnes Varda's *Le Bonheur* and asked to imagine that they are the censors. Do you judge a film purely by what it shows or the values it suggests? Peter Paul Jones as a government sponsored star rounds off this topic very well.

Law and order can be a very rewarding topic at this level, inviting discussion about why and how law is made. Concord produces a number of films about the prison: *Prison: the Alternatives* shows work among young people, the handicapped and discharged prisoners or "non-confining" punishment, involved in capital punishment, could allow Richard Attenborough's *Tom Riddleton Place*, but volunteer audience, despite the fact that it has recently been on television it is useful in invite the set to imagine they are beginning a new state—in *Lord of the Flies* style perhaps—until it fix penalties for various crimes. Disagreements will be heated.

By the end of a long autumn term, a study of humanism can be welcome. Record films stock numerous tracks from old radio shows. The BBC produces clips from Hattogek's *The Blood Donor*, *Steppe and Son* and *Till Death Us Do Part*, besides numerous extracts from Laurel and Hardy, Chaplin, Kenton and many others. Here is a chance to examine why we laugh, and the various types of humour will be hunted.

With government spending cuts upmost in the public mind, it is worth spending two or three weeks on aspects of the welfare state. The BBC's *Go to Sleep*, *Concord's Come Home*, *Edna the Inebriate Woman* and *Somerset from the Welfare* are all very good. The last named is a study of a family in a council house in the London borough of Camden, it is especially useful as it allows a teacher to make comparisons between cases and to decide priorities for care. It is a good idea to give each set an "if you were the Chancellor" test—20 possible cuts which are arranged in order of undesirability, assuming there were gradual but total national bankruptcy. Which would you axe first—Concord or school milk?

Few school pupils think much about the principles of education; fewer still know anything about the ways in which it is organized. *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and the occasionally popular *Weeks* will be few more rewarding than those that spent studying *Concord's Seven Up and Seven Down*. These examine children of the ages of seven and 14 from widely different social backgrounds; what they think about life and about each other and what they hope for the future.

Many other topics can be treated in a similar way. The BBC catalogues are excellent; *Horizon* programmes on many social scientific issues. The BBC hires out copies of *The War Game*, still banned from TV,

but suitable for senior schools while *Concord's A Place for Children* about germ warfare should be devoted to the work of a particular writer (e.g. Peter Watkins; *The War Game*, *Prisoner's Writings* of a particular writer or newspaper column; *Francis and Lily* *Copsey* is useful material).

It is worth varying at one or two topics each year, or sending each year's students a questionnaire at the end of the course. But within two years, a good core of material assembled and packed up produced.

New publication from the NCAVAE

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25



TALKBACK

Time off from business study

Alan Davidge

In this college I am responsible for liberal studies courses with full-time students. Most full-timers choose a particular non-vocational "option" and pursue it for a term, but sometimes their departmental heads request a specific liberal studies course to be tailored to a particular group of students.

With a view towards a more business-related form of liberal studies, and also to explore new ground which might be relevant to the courses which the Business Education Council will be developing in the future, the business studies department asked us to take some of their students for an afternoon session a week for a term, and devise a course to "bring them out of themselves".

I accordingly received delivery of twenty shy, don't-speak-English, you're-spoken-to, first-year, social-student students. There is not always provision in a vocational course to develop initiative and personality although these qualities are very

necessary in working life. This had in fact been explained to the girls at our first meeting.

They were told that they would be planning a term's course by themselves, and that its aim would be to benefit them not just as secretaries, but as people. Complete freedom to choose was rather new to them, but after a while the idea caught on and the blank faces were replaced by a babble of suggestions.

Something for a clarity which would involve going out and meeting people seemed to be the general theme. Someone mentioned dialysis machines and kidney donor cards. I remembered a contact I had made with Elizabeth Ward of the British Kidney Patients' Association, and this was followed up when two of the girls decided to telephone her for themselves.

At her suggestion they began to formulate plans for a kidney donor week for Crawley, which would involve the distribution of donor cards, interviewing the public and persuading them to take part.

By the end of that first afternoon the class was well on the way to deciding on the best method of reaching Crawley's 35,000 inhabitants. Decision making and delegation took place, perhaps not the best way as in the boardroom, but effectively enough. Smaller groups emerged, for specific purposes such as contacting local radio DJs, television and the local press.

There was a suggestion that by asking shopkeepers to display the cards, rather than handing them round the streets, there would be a considerable saving of time and energy. This was universally accepted.

The next problem was to select those shops which would see the greatest number of people during the week. This was finalized, and the next few sessions were spent interviewing shopkeepers and persuading them to take part.

Local firms such as Rolls Royce and British Rail had volunteered their help by taking cards for their staff. Radio Stoka offered an inter-

view (which was readily accepted, although it meant rising at 6 am for the early morning show) and the local health authority sent speakers to help the girls "son up" on the subject.

Finally, when it was decided to try and contact the public directly, the market superintendent offered us a stall and the area manager for the railway gave us a spot on the station. These two focal points would ideally have been manned by nurses, but the hospital could not spare them, so the girls had to draw up a rota for the week and do it themselves.

The scheme was launched one wet and windy Monday morning. Their efforts were rewarded by one enormous stroke of luck: Granada TV had launched a similar campaign the night before, so everyone had already heard of kidney donor cards. It soon appeared that the 6,000 cards which we had were not enough. The health authority stepped in, and provided another 2,000, all of which were consumed by Friday.

In terms of cards distributed, the project had been an overwhelming success, but this was not the only objective. In order to see what the girls had got out of it, I gave them a questionnaire. One girl wrote: "It helped me get over my shyness in meeting 'people'. Another remarked: "We were thrown in at the deep end, but I suppose this is a good thing because it made us think for ourselves, for example in trying to persuade shopkeepers to give out cards and put up posters".

Most girls agreed that they found the 18-30 age group (especially males) the most responsive. They feel the scheme achieved its objectives, although we had a few setbacks. The follow-up work displayed within the class an ability to analyse their faults, and to benefit from that experience which comes from learning by mistakes. I hope we can repeat it this year.

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view (which was readily accepted, although it meant rising at 6 am for the early morning show) and the local health authority sent speakers to help the girls "son up" on the subject.

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Network

The "Fair Play for Children" group have launched a national campaign designed to encourage self-help projects which could convert derelict areas into play areas for children. They are also campaigning for maximum use of underused premises such as schools, playing fields and church halls. As part of the campaign they are running a competition (closing date December 31) for children and young people under 19 to become "waste space spotters", identifying land or buildings suitable for play and trying to get permission for their use. There is also an *Action Handbook* (50p, post free) and duplicated action sheets and competition details (stamped addressed envelope only) all available from 248 Kenish Town Road, London, NW5.

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Ruris is a new magazine published three times a year by the Centre for the Study of Rural Society, Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln. It contains articles and information which aim to keep rural communities abreast of what is happening to them, and to foster an understanding of the issues facing rural society. The first issue has an article by a village head teacher on the re-visit of his small school. Annual subscription £1.50 (inc. packing and postage).

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Re-advertisement

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Secondary/High Schools—Forms available and to be returned to the Head Teacher at the School as soon as possible. A foolproof stamped addressed envelope should be used.

Method of Application: Primary Schools—Application forms available from the Chief Education Officer, Municipal Buildings, Manchester Old Road, Middleton, Manchester M24 4EA and on completion returned to the Head of the School as soon as possible.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL continued

Remedial Posts

Heads of Department

KENT

COMMUNITY COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SWALE DIVISION HANLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL, HANLEY, STURVEY, KENT. Head of Department. Closing date 17th October.

By Subject Classification

Art and Design

Scale 1 Posts

BERKSHIRE

WINDSOR MIDDLE SCHOOL, Windsor, Berkshire. Head of Department. Closing date 17th October.

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER (Ref. 540/778)

Group 8

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced teachers. Special interests should be indicated. Closing date: 14th October, 1977.

Re-advertisement

Queens Road Primary School, Sucklingham Road, Cheshire Hulme

HEAD OF INFANT DEPARTMENT (Ref. 457/778)

Scale 3

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced teachers. Special interests should be indicated. Previous applicants will be re-considered and need not re-apply.

Application forms and further details from Director of Education, Town Hall, Stockport (closing reference) and return to the Head Teacher by 17th October, 1977, unless otherwise stated.

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BRADFORD (City of)

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Scale 1 Posts

Remedial Posts

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KENT

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Art and Design

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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

St. Dominic Savio Secondary School (11-16)

Mount Road, Alkington, Middleton M24 1PL Tel. 061-643 4495

SENIOR MISTRESS/MASTER

Required for January, 1978, or earlier, to be responsible for girls' welfare throughout the school. Please send stamped addressed envelope for consideration to the Head Teacher, to whom applications should be returned as soon as possible.

Kingsway Middle School (10-13)

Turf Hill Road, Rochdale OL16 4XA Tel. Rochdale 40931

FRENCH - SCALE 1

Required for January, 1978. Applications by letter to the Head of the school giving details of age, qualifications and experience, together with names and addresses of two referees, as soon as possible.

Thornham Middle School (10-13)

Hill Top Drive, Kirkhill, Rochdale, Tel. Rochdale 48292

P.E. MISTRESS - SCALE 1

Required January, 1978, or (if possible) 9th Dec. 1977. Scale 2 may be available for a enthusiastic experienced teacher. Application forms obtainable from and to be returned to the Headmaster as soon as possible.

Sutherland High School (11-18)

Sutherland Road, Darahill, Haywood OL10 2PL, Tel. Haywood 80458

HUMANITIES - SCALE 1

Required from 1st January, 1978. Applicants wish to specialise in SOCIAL EDUCATION and to be able to teach at G.C.E. 'O' level and C.S.E. Mode II. Other Humanities subjects include History, Geography, Religious Education, European Studies, Sociology, Government and Law. Candidates should indicate one of these areas as their second subject. Further details on request.

MATHEMATICS WITH GENERAL SUBJECTS - SCALE 1

Part-time temporary. Applications should send a stamped addressed envelope for application form to the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Offices, Middleton, near Manchester M24 4EA, as soon as possible.

HUMBERSIDE COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

HEADSHIPS

Woolton C.E. (Aldad) Primary School, Woolton, Uxaby

Group 1: N.O.R. 37: Age Range 5-11

Applications are invited for the post of HEAD of the above school to commence duty in January, 1978, or as soon as possible thereafter. This is a Voluntary Aided School and the Managers would welcome applications from preceding communicants. Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Director of Education (H.O. Schools), County Hall, Beverley (Telephone 0482 87711, Ext. 418). Completed forms should be returned by the Candidates to the Managers at Woolton C.E. School, Woolton, Uxaby, not later than 17th October, 1977.

St. Wilfrid's R.C. (Aldad) Primary School, Saker Street, Hull

Group 3: N.O.R. 118: Age Range 5-9

Applications are invited for the post of HEAD of the above school to commence duty in January, 1978, or as soon as possible thereafter. This is a Voluntary Aided School and the Managers would welcome applications from preceding Roman Catholics. Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Director of Education (H.O. Schools), County Hall, Beverley (Telephone 0482 87711, Ext. 418). Completed forms should be returned by the Candidates to the Managers at St. Wilfrid's R.C. School, Saker Street, Hull, not later than 17th October, 1977.

Majal Lambert High School, James Rackitt Avenue, Hull

Group 11: N.O.R. 820: Age Range 13-18

Applications are invited for the post of HEAD of the above school to commence duty in January, 1978, or as soon as possible thereafter. The school is housed in a modern building on a 20 acre site overlooking an attractive golf course. Excellent facilities are offered and courses are available in the G.C.E. 'A' and 'O' levels in a wide variety of subjects at both establishments. In 1980 the school became a Comprehensive School of the system of Primary, Middle (9-13) and Senior High Schools.

Head of Unit for Deaf/Deaf Pupils, Hull

Applications are invited for the post of HEAD of the above unit to commence duty in January, 1978, or as soon as possible thereafter. This is a NEW 25 PLACE UNIT which is due to be opened in 1978, and will cater for pupils mainly in the 14-16 age range.

Other than by Subject Classification

Other Posts on Scale 2 and above

Other Posts on Scale 2 and above

Other Posts on Scale 2 and above

Other Posts on Scale 2 and above

INDEPENDENT Science continued Other Aseletants

HERTFORDSHIRE ALPHINGTON COLLEGE

LIVERPOOL 23 MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL

LONDON, S.E.19

LONDON, S.W.10

NORTH YORKSHIRE HUMPHRY HALL SCHOOL

LINCOLNSHIRE STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

MALTMAN'S GREEN GERRARDS CROSS

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

SOUTH CROYDON WILLIAMS' SCHOOL

SURREY TRINGHENT SCHOOL

HERTFORDSHIRE ST. FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE

KENT ASH AND ST. JOHN'S

KENT CAMHAM HALL

LONDON, S.E.19

LINCOLNSHIRE STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

MALTMAN'S GREEN GERRARDS CROSS

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Other than by Subject Classification

HERTFORDSHIRE ST. FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE

KENT ASH AND ST. JOHN'S

KENT CAMHAM HALL

LONDON, S.E.19

LINCOLNSHIRE STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

MALTMAN'S GREEN GERRARDS CROSS

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Deputy Headships Senior Masters/Mistresses

HERTFORDSHIRE ST. FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE

KENT ASH AND ST. JOHN'S

KENT CAMHAM HALL

LONDON, S.E.19

LINCOLNSHIRE STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

MALTMAN'S GREEN GERRARDS CROSS

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Other Aseletants

HERTFORDSHIRE ST. FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE

KENT ASH AND ST. JOHN'S

KENT CAMHAM HALL

LONDON, S.E.19

LINCOLNSHIRE STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

MALTMAN'S GREEN GERRARDS CROSS

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

SURREY WINDYBUSH DOVE

WARRICK

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WARRICK

EAST SUSSEX EDUCATION AUTHORITY

VICE-PRINCIPAL

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

BLACKPOOL COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ART

LECTURER II

STOCKSBRIDGE COLLEGE

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

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LECTURER I

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY

LECTURER II IN COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

LECTURER I IN ACCOUNTS AND ALLIED SUBJECTS

LECTURER I IN ELECTRONICS/COMPUTING

ROYAL NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

LECTURER I

MALTMAN'S GREEN GERRARDS CROSS

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

MILLFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

مدرسة في مصر

West Nottinghamshire College of Further Education
Darby Road, Mansfield, Notts. NG18 9BH

(Incorporating the former Mansfield College of Arts)

Applications are invited for the following post vacant on 1st January, 1978.

Head of Department of Art and Design
(currently GRADE III but subject to early review)

Applicants should possess a recognised degree level qualification in Art and Design, be practising artists or designers and hold or have held a senior post in Art and Design Education. Application forms and further particulars are available from the Principal at the College. Closing date 23rd October, 1977.

Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6EP

COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION continued

AVON COUNTY COUNCIL
NORTH AVON TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BRISTOL
Applications are invited for the following posts available from 1st January 1978:

LECTURER IN FABRICATION
The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of the following subjects: Fabrication, Sheet Metal, and Welding. The successful candidate will be required to have a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects and to hold a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects and to hold a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects.

LECTURER IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of the following subjects: Civil Engineering, Mechanics, and Mathematics. The successful candidate will be required to have a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects and to hold a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects.

CLYDD
NORTH AVON TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BRISTOL
Applications are invited for the following posts available from 1st January 1978:

LECTURER IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of the following subjects: Civil Engineering, Mechanics, and Mathematics. The successful candidate will be required to have a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects and to hold a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects.

LECTURER IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of the following subjects: Civil Engineering, Mechanics, and Mathematics. The successful candidate will be required to have a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects and to hold a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects.

GLoucestershire
NORTH AVON TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BRISTOL
Applications are invited for the following posts available from 1st January 1978:

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LECTURER IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
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HEREFORD AND WORCESTER
NORTH AVON TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BRISTOL
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South East London College

Department of Construction
Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham, SE28 5BD

Lecturer II for Civil/Structural Engineering Subjects
(Ref. CON. 24)

Chartered or Technician Engineer required to teach Civil/Structural engineering subjects up to T.Eng.(C.E.I.) level. Candidates should be able to offer Reinforced Concrete Design and Detailing and Theory of Structures. Ability to teach Land Surveying and Structural Technology an advantage. Salary scales in accordance with the Burnham (F.E.) report. Lecturer II—£3,278-£5,493, plus £402 Inner London Allowance and supplement between £444 and £492, subject to formal approval. Aselema may be given towards household removal expenses. Application forms, returnable within two weeks of the date of this advertisement and further particulars from the Senior Administration Officer, SELTEC, Lewisham Way, London, SE4 1UT. It is essential to quote the reference number.

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BRISTOL
NORTH AVON TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BRISTOL
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EDINBURGH
DUNFERMLINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the following posts:

(1) Lecturer in Special Education/Movement
Qualification in Special Education and experience of working with handicapped people essential; movement qualifications/experience an advantage.

(2) Lecturer in Science of Movement
A graduate in Science of Physical Education with experience in teaching either biology/physiology/psychology or in applying scientific principles to studies in movement is preferred, but applicants are also invited from those with appropriate experience or other qualifications in Physical Education alone.

(3) Lecturer in Education
Qualifications in Psychology essential; specialist knowledge in (a) the development and learning of perceptual motor skills and/or (b) cognitive psychology an advantage. All posts will take effect as soon as possible but posts (2) and (3) will be temporary appointments for one year in the first instance. Salary will be on the following scale in accordance with qualifications and experience—£3,628-£6,807. Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Principal, Dunfermline College of Physical Education, Cranford Road North, Edinburgh, EH4 6JD. Completed forms should be returned by 21st October, 1977.

BRISTOL
NORTH AVON TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BRISTOL
Applications are invited for the following posts available from 1st January 1978:

LECTURER IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
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GLoucestershire
NORTH AVON TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BRISTOL
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HEREFORD AND WORCESTER
NORTH AVON TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BRISTOL
Applications are invited for the following posts available from 1st January 1978:

LECTURER IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of the following subjects: Civil Engineering, Mechanics, and Mathematics. The successful candidate will be required to have a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects and to hold a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above subjects.

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CYNGOR SIR GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCIL

Colig Meirionnydd, Dolgellau
Required for January, 1978:

- LECTURER IN CATERING**
(Food Preparation) to teach students up to City and Guide Basic Catering Certificate 708-1708-2. Some experience of teaching Food Services (707-1) would City as an advantage. Candidates should hold relevant City and/or teaching experience/qualifications.
- LECTURER IN GENERAL SCIENCE**
subjects specialising in Human Biology and Food Science. Ability to act as course tutor for Pre-Nursing Students would be an advantage. Graduates and/or Teacher Trained.
- GRADUATE IN SOCIOLOGY**
to teach up to 'A' level and to assist in teaching English and/or Welsh throughout the College. An interest in Student-Counselling and outdoor activities would be an added advantage. Teaching qualifications and/or experience essential.
- GRADUATE IN WELSH OR WELSH STUDIES**
to teach the subject as part of a team and to be able to assist in the teaching of English throughout the College. It is essential that the successful applicant be committed to the development of drama and of the College as a Centre of cultural activities. Teaching qualifications and/or experience essential. The ability to speak Welsh would not be essential, will be an advantage for posts (1), (2), and (3). Salary Scale in accordance with Burnham F.E. Award—£2,913-£4,869 inclusive of supplement.

Further details and application forms from the Principal, Colig Meirionnydd, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, Closing date—within 1 week of the appearance of the advertisement.

Gwynedd Technical College, Bangor
LECTURER II IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
Applications are invited for the above new post within the Construction Department. Applicants should be appropriate members of the Institution of Civil Engineers and have had experience in either civil engineering consultancy or contracting. Salary Scale in accordance with Burnham F.E. Award—£3,744-£5,985 inclusive of supplement. Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Principal, to whom they should be returned by the 17th October, 1977.

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